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BUYING BRITISH REMOUNTS IN AMERICA (Illustrated). By Brig.-Gen. T. R. F. Bate.

OCT 12 1918

# COUNTRY LIFE

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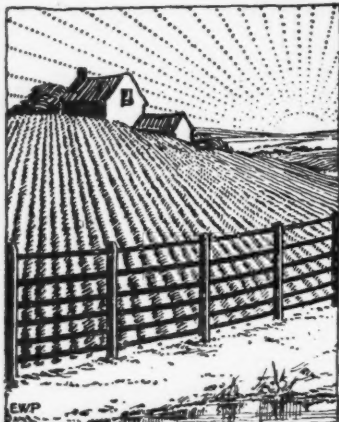
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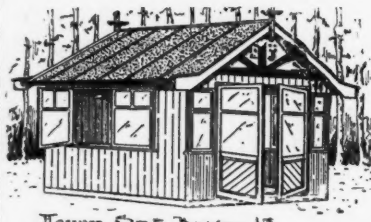
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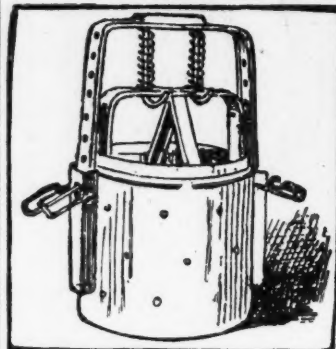
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# COUNTRY LIFE

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RITA MARTIN.

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74, Baker Street, W.

# COUNTRY LIFE

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## Quick Decisions and the Soldiers' Settlements

APPARENTLY there is some forgetfulness on the part of the British public on the scheme concerning which so much was said in 1915 of forming settlements on the land for the returned members of the fighting Services. The movement has not entirely stopped, something has been done, and done very creditably. Three or four settlements for soldiers have already been established, but they are a mere fleabite compared to what will be required after the war is over. The colony at Holbeach, of which we gave an account some weeks ago, is admirable in every respect but one. It is situated on soil that is at once rich

and light, so that it can be easily worked and yet made to yield a magnificent return. The central farm is worked on an excellent system for instructing a young soldier in the art of husbandry as well as providing him with occupation. He can see done in the best way the very things that he has to do on his own holding. He can hire from the Central Farm at a fixed tariff, where there can be no chance or opportunity of overcharging, the animals and instruments which are needed on his holding. He can find work there when his own little plot is not needing his services. In all these respects the plan is admirable; but then, when the scheme is complete it will only find holdings for about forty men. This number is a drop in the ocean compared to the multitudes who will need work on the land when the war is finished. But then this inadequate movement hangs fire. It is not preparing holdings in sufficient numbers to have any appreciable effect in finding place for those who return from the war; even so, it is being carried out with a faltering will, because the belief has crept in that by this means never can the necessities of the hour be met.

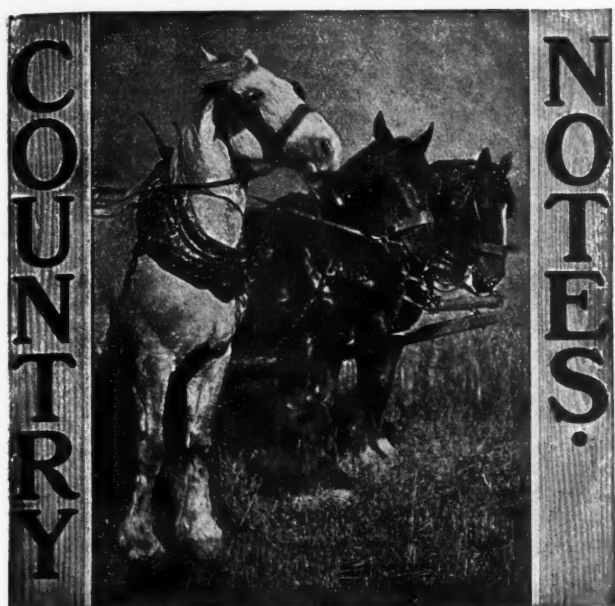
Many people talk as though the provision of land were as easy as the provision of a meal when you can go to the next shop or market and buy the material for it. As a matter of fact, the purchase of land or its acquisition through the medium of a long lease is a lengthy process. It is especially so if the undesirable feature of dispossession is brought in. And, to speak frankly, there must be dispossession before land can be provided for a twentieth or even a hundredth part of those applicants from the Army who will need it. But you cannot turn a tenant out of a farm in a day. He must be able to realise the value of his stock, finish his cropping and his harvesting, and do other things that are necessary before the occupation of land be terminated. It is only after that that the work of re-organisation begins. The division of a farm into small holdings must necessarily be a slow process, because if the advantages are not evenly distributed among the newcomers there is sure to be an outcry, and an outcry that has sound cause. In all probability cottages will have to be built, new fencings put up and other preparations made in order that each holding may be separated from its neighbour, and be fit for the entrance of the holder. It would be all the better if some time were allowed to get the land into good heart so that the ex-soldier or ex-sailor might start fairly easily.

It has become plain to every intelligence that the Government plan is too slow to accomplish all this, besides it is not pushed with resolution by anyone in particular. Mr. Prothero is not in the position of a president who has worked out a scheme in his mind, and is determined to carry it through with vigour and decision. He seems rather to regard himself as one whose office is to translate into practical action the theories of others. Nor is there anyone else before the public who has staked reputation and career upon carrying out any definite scheme of settlement for soldiers. In consequence the movement flags, and there is a great disposition to transfer the working of the scheme from Whitehall to the moot-halls of the various country towns. This would be a loss in one way, because there is no County Council scheme of small holdings which is so well arranged for the purpose of providing training and instruction as are those of the Government; but, on the other hand, there are so many counties that if they were to take it up and each do something, the steam power, so to speak, would be increased forty-fold. The Government seems unable to deal with more than one scheme at a time, and the County Council could deal with it equally well. There is not much time to spare for discussion. Of course, the war may go on for years to come. We are not optimistically prophesying a speedy end nor pessimistically foreboding a distant one, but only suggesting that if the scheme is to be ready when the men are let loose, it will be necessary to take it up a long time beforehand, so that the slow, primary processes may be got through in time.

## Our Frontispiece

WE print as frontispiece to this week's issue a portrait of Lady Sibyl Fraser with her little daughter. Lady Sibyl Fraser is a daughter of the Earl of Verulam, and was married in 1915 to Major the Hon. Alastair Fraser, son of the thirteenth Baron Lovat.

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**A** LITTLE tour made last week in East Anglia impressed the writer and his companions very much with the magnificence, abundance and quality of the present harvest. Nothing like it has been seen in the memory of man. Tradition assures us that it had a parallel in 1868, but there is nothing more than tradition to go upon. It would be of immense interest in the years to come if the best possible photographic or written records were made, so that the harvest of this year might be visualised for the purpose of comparison later on. It has been suggested that if the matter were brought before our agricultural readers, there is no doubt that some of them, at least, would find time and opportunity to photograph or measure their crops in a manner that would enable an exact comparison to be made between the harvest now being gathered in and any that might be thought to equal it in future harvests. One or two of the executive councils of the country have evidently entertained the same opinion, but it would be better if they could all agree upon a plan. Records made by them are too general in character, and photographs have been sent out which do not at all illustrate the peculiar qualities of this year's crops.

**THE** feature which would probably be most interesting is the size of ear in the cereals. Photographs of ears, accompanied by exact measurements, and even weights, where it is convenient to give them, would be most desirable. After all, the ear is the essential product of the wheat or other grain, and its size makes it easily dealt with. What a wayfarer notices most in the country is the number of the stooks, which give the appearance of a heavy and bountiful crop; but here is something that rather eludes the attempt to capture and place it on paper. In wheat the length and sturdiness of the straw appear to be unsurpassed, and the measuring tape could give in this respect definite figures for comparison. A letter will be found in our agricultural pages which is illustrated by a picture of the tall oats that won the prize offered for the best crop by the Sulphate of Ammonia Association. This is an example of what might be more generally done, only it would be more interesting to obtain the information from private persons than from a corporate body. Attention should not be confined only to cereals. Whoever has an extraordinary root of potatoes or a remarkable field of mangels, swedes, turnips, or beets ought to have the weights and so on settled and put down in writing, or if a photograph were thrown in so much the better. In a word, any memorial of the splendid agricultural returns of 1918 would be interesting at the moment and would increase in value as time went on.

**TAUGHT** by experience, the people of this country show a commendable reluctance to draw any optimistic deductions from the success of our armies. They have had proof of the strength and recuperative power of the enemy; they know that in similar circumstances we would fight with increasing resolution when forced to fight with our backs to the wall. Hence the expectation has always been that the Germans would be able in their retreat to dig themselves in as they did after the first battle of the Marne in 1914, with the idea of putting up a stone wall defence until such time as they could remarshal their forces and endeavour

once more to equalise the position, if not to overturn their opponents and again threaten either the Channel or the French capital. But instead of diminishing, their difficulties have increased. The breaking of the "switch" or the so-called "Wotan" line is an act of valour that will only be equalled in importance when the Rhine is crossed. The German critics are right in saying that unity of command has imparted a persistence of attack and an elasticity to the Allied armies which they had not previously possessed.

**WITHOUT** either exaggerating or minimising the possibilities and dangers of the position, it is impossible to avoid drawing one or two important inferences. One is that the German reserves cannot possibly be so extensive as believed a few weeks ago. Ludendorff, if he chooses to make a stubborn defence at one point, is obliged to draw men from other parts of the line and leave weaknesses which do not escape the eye of those opposed to him. Alike in the English and in the French Army, the crisis has had the effect of bringing the generals to the top of their form. The latest offensive has been conducted in a manner to elicit admiration from military men all over the world. We can see its effect in the more courageous manner in which neutrals are now dealing with the bullying which is part and parcel of the Teutonic nature. And even the experts in Berlin and Frankfort are being convinced against their will that the opposition to Germany is assuming a far more formidable aspect than it ever wore before. Ludendorff has never been able to recover from the disorganisation incidental to defeat. The best of his men are as brave and stubborn as ever they were, but in times such as these the chain breaks where the links are weakest, and a fighting standard of some at least of the German troops has very much deteriorated. So that no prophet can tell whether the offensive is going to end in a rally of the enemy or a defeat that may be early or late as the fortunes of war shall determine.

#### "INDESTRUCTIBLE."

If the nations go down in fire,  
And the known things pass  
In a thunder of ruin and flame—

If the chain of history breaks,  
By violence snapt  
And our age is not even a name—

If the world we know must die,  
Overwhelmed by the blast  
And so lost like dust on its breath—

Surely this one thing remains  
Of the old world's soul—  
The spirit which fought to the death.

M. G. MEUGENS.

**"THEY** must have opened a clamp!" This was the exclamation of a smiling, ruddy-faced policeman who, in the early hours of Monday morning, read a summary of the news in a window of a bookseller's shop. His eyes were glued to the statement that during August the British Army had captured 57,318 German prisoners, including 1,283 officers. After that astounding statement the capture of 657 German guns, including over 150 heavy guns, 5,750 machine guns, and 1,000 trench mortars, appears a trifle. But if this was the effect produced by the news on a stolid British civilian—and a policeman, although he is a policeman, still remains a British civilian—what was likely to be the effect on a German of a corresponding social status who read a similar notice somewhere in the neighbourhood of the Wilhelmstrasse? No one could say for the very good reason that the German military authorities and the German Kaiser are taking very great care that the home dwellers in Germany shall not obtain definite reports of facts like these.

**QUITE** to the contrary, the effect of German information is as far as possible to mislead and bemuse the Teutonic mind. It is said that Ludendorff or Hindenburg, or Ludendorff and Hindenburg—nobody seems to know exactly what is the right position—are setting it forth that they are shortening the line and slipping away from one point of advantage after another "according to plan," and unnoticed by the Allied foes. If the German prisoners in this country are allowed to obtain the newspapers of their Fatherland and read these fables therein, they must be considerably astonished. If it was all according to plan to leave behind so great

a multitude of officers and men, such an enormous quantity of loot that included many such trifles as three trains, nine locomotives, various complete engineer and ammunition dumps, many hundred thousand rounds of gun and trench mortar ammunition, as well as small arms ammunition and immense quantities of munitions of war of every description, then the plan must be the most extraordinary ever conceived. One cannot believe that the German people are ignorant of what has taken place. The gloomy and pessimistic tone of their newspapers forbids the assumption. The time is rapidly arriving when the bandage will be taken from their eyes and they will recognise the plight into which they have been led by the mad enterprise of their Kaiser.

PRESIDENT WILSON has informed a correspondent that he hopes to visit England on a special mission within a short period of time. No one could be surer of a cordial welcome. At the beginning of the war President Wilson was an unknown quantity to the average Englishman. There was an impression abroad that he was something of a theorist and a professor. This was deepened in the first stages of the drama which ended in the entry of the United States. The situation in America was not very clearly understood, and it was thought and expected here that after the sinking of the *Lusitania* the United States would rush into the war. Nobody seemed to appreciate the fact that the population of the States is composed largely of Germans and men of German descent. They were for the most part assimilated by the great Republic, but still required very careful handling if America meant to enter decidedly and with unity into the great European contest. Slowly but surely President Wilson evolved a programme that brought practically all his countrymen on to the same platform. He preached a crusade against Militarism, but distinguished between junkers, soldiers and sailors, who sought world domination for the Kaiser, and the German people who were partly driven into the war and partly allured by the dreams and visions of the more ambitious. President Wilson's great achievement was to obtain an endorsement of his policy from the American people and to establish his reputation in the world as one of the few who could put into convincing eloquence the inarticulate and almost doggedly sullen feeling which the action of the German Emperor had aroused in the free European nations.

WHAT may be called the Game Festivals of the year are passing with less and less notice as the war goes on. In 1914 the "Twelfth" occurred almost immediately after the outbreak of hostilities, and a great many people believed then in the cry "Business as Usual" with its colloquy, "Sport as Usual." They proceeded to shoot grouse. Before the next year came round the men who used to shoot game were busily engaged shooting Germans, and the owners of estates famous for moor and covert were engulged in the general turmoil created by the necessity of finding and equipping a great Army and attending to the needs of the wounded and the survivors of the slain. After that came the menace of shortness of food, if not famine. The cry of a great ploughing programme became popular. Everybody's mind was turned to the production of food, and many who were enthusiastic sportsmen before the war began now to look upon game as a hindrance to agriculture and food production. This year the Twelfth passed almost without comment. September 1st would have done the same but for the fact that partridges have thriven and multiplied to an extraordinary extent during the war. They have shown themselves much less dependent on human fostering than the pheasant.

THE Finance Act of 1918, which is now law, carries a stage further the special treatment accorded to the estates of men killed in the war. Hitherto—that is to say, since 1914—small estates passing to soldiers' wives or lineal descendants have been accorded special terms, and the concessions are now applied to property passing to collateral relatives, that is, brothers, sisters, nephews or nieces. An estate of under £5,000, or the first £5,000 of an estate larger than that, is exempt from Death Duties, and the Death Duty of the balance is discounted according to the age of the deceased soldier. The important feature of the new Act is that it is retrospective, and executors of estates coming within the new provisions can now apply for return of the duty paid. As the right to exemption is not, however, a statutory one, but is granted at the discretion of the Treasury, who, in their turn, act on the recommendation of the War Office, the Admiralty, or, in the case of merchant seamen, the

Board of Trade, permission must be sought in the appropriate quarter. The intention, however, is plain, and permission, when applied for, will not, we gather, be refused except for very grave cause. The concession, while it makes no appreciable difference to the Exchequer, will, in the case of small estates, mean a great deal to legatees, to whom Death Duties of £300 or £400 are no light matter in an estate of £5,000.

A WRITER in the "Times" suggests that the war has shown that one of the secrets of happy living is "high visibility"; by which he means that everything should be made as plain and simple as possible for the eye. Keyholes, electric switches and clock faces should be painted with luminous paint, and lawn tennis nets and balls, cricket balls and footballs should be of the most striking and visible colours. There is no doubt that greater use might well be made of luminous paint, the properties of which do not appear to be adequately appreciated. There is also no doubt that the colours used for many purposes might well be reconsidered in view of modern inventions and requirements. But when we come to games, different considerations apply. The requirements of life are realities, whereas games are merely conventions. One of the main objects of the Baconian philosophy was to make life easier and more pleasant. This ideal the world is still pursuing with vigour and success. In recent times even such a modest appliance as a safety razor has worked a revolution in comfort and convenience. Games, on the other hand, are not devised for ease and comfort. The object is to make them interesting. They must not be too easy nor too difficult. In many cases the implements used are purposely or by tradition ill adapted for the purpose in view. Cricket bats and golf clubs must be constructed according to certain arbitrary rules, which are only altered from time to time by the governing authorities in order to improve the game. Higher visibility might or might not be an improvement. By making a game too easy it might be robbed of its chief merits. Man is continually engaged in fighting the forces of nature and in endeavouring to push back the horizon. But in games success comes to the man who does best within the limits prescribed.

#### THE BOOK OF LIFE.

(To Joyce Eleanor, aged two months.)

Dear Joyce, the scribes of bygone ages  
Worked into borders, round their pages,  
Blossoms and birds and heads of kings  
So deck your page with shining things  
For love and laughter. Here's your moral:  
Prize both the lily and the sorrel—

Grow brave, nor be ashamed to blunder,  
Grow wise, but not too wise to wonder  
Where Throstle learnt the song he sings  
And, bright with your imaginings  
Discern (to charm you from dull sorrow)  
The golden chapter of To-morrow!

JOYCE COBB

A LYNX-EYED contemporary has made the discovery that "Jimmy" Wilde, who has added to his pugilistic fame by beating a man two stone heavier than himself in twelve rounds, is classified as a "B" man in the Army. If this is to be taken as embodying the military notion of fitness it is certainly a very peculiar one. In reading a good report of the fight we hear a great deal of the victor's irrepressible aggression and spirit. Never, says the almost lyrical report, had he exhibited more courage, audacity and skill. "He maintained a hot pace without cracking." This is, of course, a modern version of the sort of thing that used to appear in *Bell's Life*, when what was then called the "Fistic art" was at its zenith; only the journalist of those days talked of "tapping the claret," "touching him on the nob" or the "smiler," "blinding his peeper," where now an air of science permeates the description of the same kind of encounter. But whatever words may be used, the fact remains that much as we may admire boxing in times of peace, those who are proficient at it, instead of battering one another, would be better employed using their strength and skill against the Hun, and if a man can carry out a fight as well as Wilde does, it would be a strange Army where he really was a "B" man. Carpentier, the French Champion, showed a fine example to professors of the same craft the world over, winning honour in the ranks of the Army as great as that which came to him as one of the best and most chivalrous of pugilists.

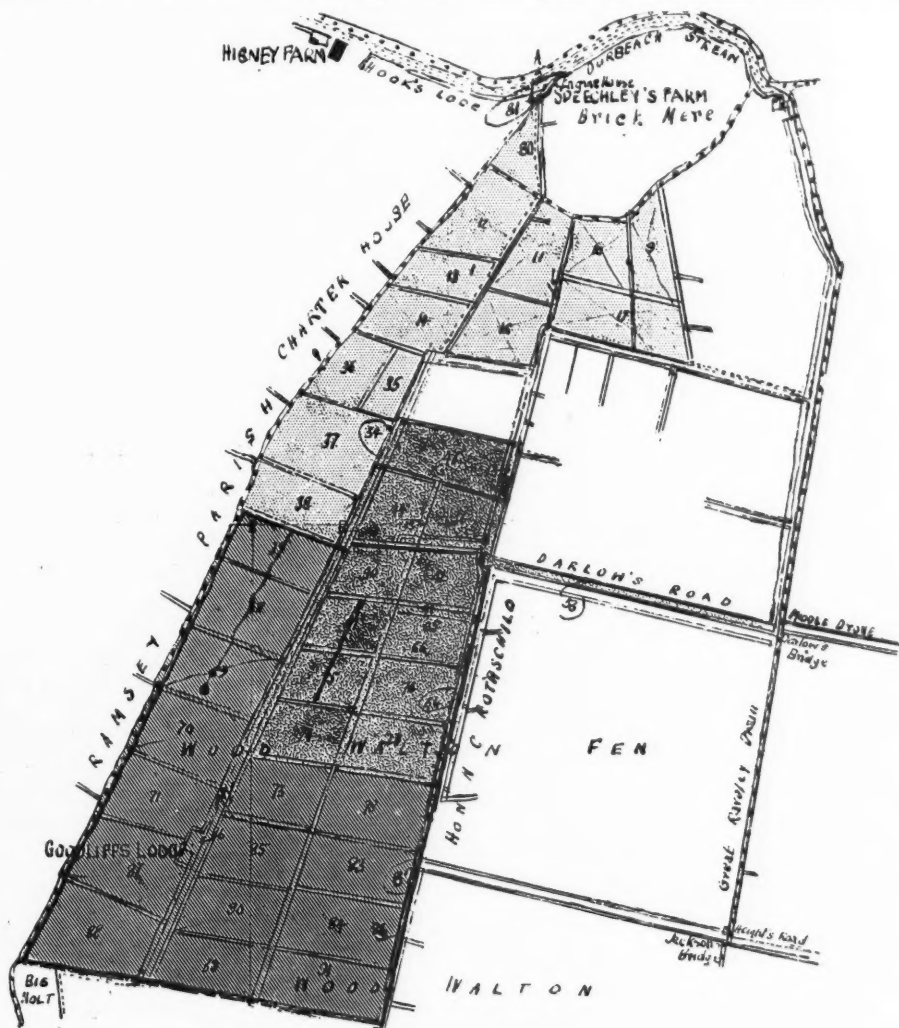
# RECLAIMING THE FEN

AN enterprise of great importance to the British food supply, present and future, is being carried out near the little town of Ramsey in Huntingdonshire. The particular district was brought to the notice of the general public some years ago when the present Lord Rothschild, known all over the world for his natural history collections, moved by a desire to save from extermination the insect life of the fen, bought and presented to the nation about 400 acres of land, which is known as Wicken Fen, in order that it should remain in its natural condition for ever and become a sanctuary of the Lepidoptera. From the natural history point of view it would well repay careful study, as the butterflies in summer and innumerable ducks in winter have availed themselves of this haunt; but for the present purpose it is to be valued chiefly as illustrative of the state into which the fen reverts when Nature is allowed to have her way. It lies actually adjacent to the scene of the new operations. Wicken Fen is cut off from the rest of Fenland by a deep dyke or ditch on each of its four sides—it is practically square in shape. Standing on the bank of one of these ditches, Fenland may be seen in all its stages. Parts of it have long been under the plough and are this year bearing heavy crops of roots and cereals. These represent the condition into which the husbandman would like to bring the whole watery country-side. Others, like the Rothschild reservation, are in their natural state of useless beauty. Between these extremes every step in advancement or retrogression may be witnessed. Workmen are delving the primeval peat at one corner—and we shall look more closely at their proceedings hereafter—and many acres formerly ploughed and cropped are reverting to their ancient state. The why and the wherefore of this turns on drainage, but of this also anon. First let us mark the stages of what we may call the fen's road to ruin. If neglected by that lord of the soil who has brought it into the ranks of order and increase; if, in other words, the farmer ceases to apply such instruments as the plough and the harrow, ceasing at the same time to follow on with new crops, that unsleeping villain Couch Grass, always spying where he may enter and devour, takes up his abode, and the black earth is covered with his pale green. His empire does not endure long, for though he may hang about for some time, other plants thriving better on the moisture begin to drive him back. Flags and rushes, after making a first appearance, soon spread over the surface and at least give an æsthetic charm to the

land, even when hastening its decay. But they in their turn have to give place to the trees and bushes, mostly of the Salix tribe, though with a mingling of other water-loving trees and shrubs that take fierce possession. So in the end Lord Rothschild's plot has got back to its primeval condition. On a sunny August afternoon with a summer breeze, it was a sea of merry twinkling leaves lined with flowering rushes set on the bank of a semi-stagnant ditch, its waters half concealed by gay bunches of loosestrife and other marsh flowers and grasses. That Lord Rothschild had been highly successful in preserving insect life is proved to the spectator by assaults on his neck and hands, the effects of which will remain many days!

It will naturally be asked by inhabitants of dry land why the Fenman, known for his steadiness and sagacity, allowed the land to relapse at a time when produce is of more value than gold. Those familiar with Fenland will immediately

judge that the difficulty is one of drainage. Water is the great enemy against which the Fenman has been struggling since the way to reclamation was laid open by the works begun in the reign of Charles II., according to the plan drawn up by the Dutch engineer Vermuyden. The Dutch system, of which a modification was applied to the drowned land of Lincolnshire and the Fens, is briefly described by Carey and Oliver as follows: "The area to be redeemed, having slowly accrued up to the state of rough herbage, it is em-



WOOD WALTON FEN.  
Showing its division into fields by cross dykes leading into the Durbeach Stream.

barked and ditches are dug inside such banks. An accumulating reservoir is requisite to take discharge at low tide. The tract of land thus roughly cleared is in effect a swamp, and ditches are then driven across it so that it resembles a chessboard of land and water. The soil removed from the ditches is spread over the land to be reclaimed and pumps are set to work to get rid of the superfluous water, the inflow of which is regulated by sluices. By this means a new polder of Dutch land comes into being."

But it happened through an accident of fate that the land under consideration became the reservoir. To understand clearly how this happened, the reader must realise that in a winter flood the land just described is turned into an inland sea or great lake. With the Dutch the salt water and its tide made the problem. In Fenland the recurrent flood plays the same part as the tide in Holland. During one of these floods the bank of the great ditch which separates the butterfly reserve from the fen now being reclaimed gave way and left a gap, through which the waters rushed. Not only so, but the

bank itself was discovered to be nearly a couple of feet too low. Hence, before agricultural operations can be undertaken with any chance of durable security the gap must be stopped and the bank raised. This work is now going on. A few hundred yards will serve as a temporary check, and at least six miles of banking must be done to make a lasting success. This is a matter of engineering which is a preliminary of husbandry. Its effect will easily be apprehended. In so far as the estate serves the purpose of a great reservoir holding the water which otherwise would be distributed over many farms, it is a benefit to the latter but a barrier to its own development.

Simultaneously with the engineering farming has begun and is successfully carried on. Primarily the fen was acquired by the Molassine Company, which is cutting and taking away the peat for commercial purposes. The agricultural work is done under the supervision of the agricultural expert of the Company. Peat-cutting is going on at the same time. There is some difference between the method of going to work to obtain peat for fuel and that for commercial purposes. The local men dig fuel in pieces, each of which is about the size of an ordinary brick, whereas for commercial purposes great slabs are preferred; technically, a row of slabs of peat is made up of "journeys." A journey is two chains in length, with a width of 3ft. 6ins. The valuable peat soil is removed and, as the work goes on, filled into the part excavated by extracting the peat, and this will become available for growing crops as soon as the peat is got away. The weight for a cutting of 13ins. in depth is about 190 tons of dry blocks per acre.

The cultivation for this year was started very late; it did not begin, indeed, until April. Our map shows the division

two-furrow Oliver ploughs, and also some Martin cultivators. With these the work was got under way early in April. First of all the land was ploughed by the tractors, then it was worked with the cultivators and chain-harrowed, so as to bring as much of the couch grass and its roots to the surface as possible. These were forked together and carted off by a gang of women workers. The roots which had



LOCALLY DUG PEAT FOR FUEL.

invaded the land are now mouldering in great mounds, and no doubt will become valuable earth in the process of time. Afterwards the cultivators were again started to work so as to bring more of the roots to the surface, and the dry weather experienced in late spring and early summer conducted considerably to the success of the operation. The women once more came upon the scene with their forks and carts, and very little of the couch grass

has made its appearance in the cultivated land. Of the crops 38½ acres are devoted to potatoes, the variety used being King Edward. We sampled a crop, and it is very good, considering that all the planting was done between the middle of May and the middle of June. The manure applied was 13 cwt. of basic slag, supplemented by a dressing of the artificial which is sold under the name of Rito. The potatoes, on grounds of patriotism, are being grown under contract with the Food Controller. Among the other crops the most noticeable were 10 acres of buckwheat, sown in the middle of June, and just passing the flowering stage in August; 9 acres of sunflowers, just coming into flower and looking very promising indeed; and nearly 12 acres of Savoy cabbages, which, though they were planted without rain, were looking as green and healthy as one

could desire. These have been grown under a contract with the Army and Navy Canteen Board. It will be admitted that these are very good results to be obtained during the very short time in which the fen has been under the control of its present owners, and we look forward with confidence to a great increase of the productivity of the fen during the next few seasons.

P. A. G.



STACKED SLABS FOR COMMERCE.

of the area into fields by means of dykes, which carry the water eventually into the Durbeach Stream. The likeness to a chessboard which occurs in the quotation describing a Dutch holding will be at once observed. The growing of crops would not have been got through so quickly but for the help given by the County Executive Committee for Huntingdonshire, which sent four Fordson tractors fitted with

# FEATURES OF THE RECORD HARVEST

## I.—GERMAN PRISONERS ASSISTING.

FOR many reasons the present harvest promises to be historic. Its greatest claim is that it represents the energy and resolution of the British people and particularly of the British farmers, who, when confronted with the menace that the food supplies would be cut off by submarine warfare, ploughed and harrowed and weeded and sowed until they had more ground under the plough than has ever been before in the records of British husbandry. This in itself is a very proud memorial, but more than that, the weather, which, with more than its accustomed caprice, has often turned out inimical to our success, has favoured this gigantic effort. The consequence is that not only is the harvest greater in extent than any of its predecessors, but it equals in size per acre the best before recorded—a singular and fortunate result of our efforts. Finally, the chronicler of the future will note, as one of life's little ironies, that the very people who threatened this country with starvation are now helping to gather in the crops which in the coming year will enable us to laugh at the efforts of the submarine. If a dramatist had contrived such a plot he would have been complimented on his ingenuity, but it has occurred without any intention on our part to triumph over the foe by making those who have been captured store the grain that will be of the greatest help in defeating them. Mr. Prothero prophesied that the decision would be arrived at on the potato fields of England, and by potato fields, of course, he meant land devoted to the purpose of producing food for the nation. There is every prospect now of his forecast being fulfilled to the letter, and it will go down in history that the captives worked in the British harvest of 1918, not as being in the position of slaves forced to labour, but as willing to exchange the monotony of a prison camp for labour in the fields. The scenes depicted in the illustrations are visible all over England at the time of writing. A very great exertion has been required to deal with the magnificent yield returned.



Wherever one goes in the country German prisoners may be seen in the harvest fields stacking the sheaves, tossing them into the wagon or cart, or assisting in the stackyard, according to the progress that has been made. They have helped

very considerably to secure crops that at one time were threatened by rain which would have been extremely injurious had it continued. The old proverb has it, however, that it never rains but it pours: success in the battlefield has been accompanied by success on the farm. In Germany the very opposite has occurred. The armies of the Kaiser, after four years of chequered but, on the whole, victorious warfare, are now unmistakably getting the worst of it, and, as if Providence had

willed the completeness of their defeat, weather conditions in the Fatherland have been so adverse that the population is threatened with very short commons indeed during the coming winter.

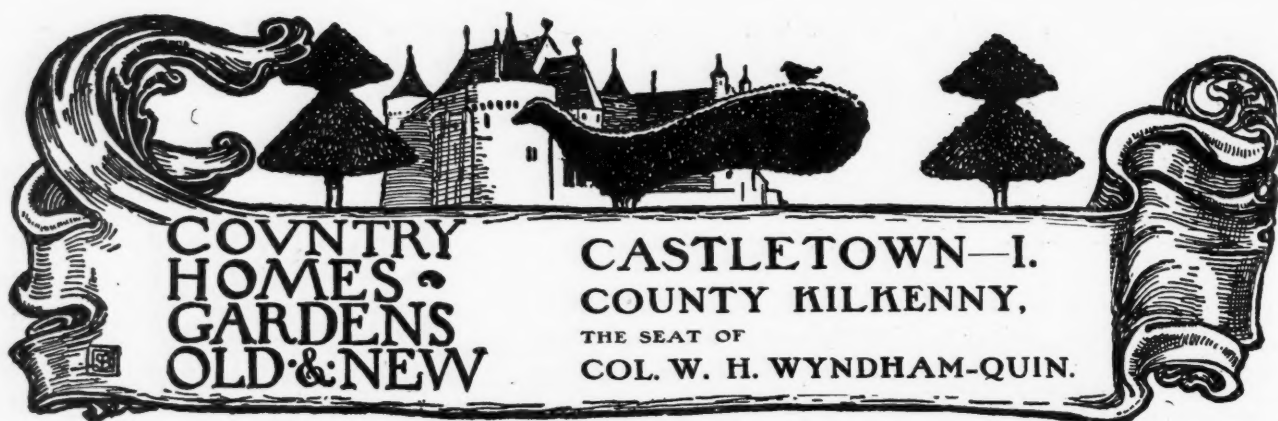
## II.—AN EXAMPLE OF ITS ABUNDANCE.

THE photograph shown here, as explained in Mr. Bensusan's note, is but one little example of the magnificence of the yield.



We hope our correspondents, from the richness of the material at their disposal, will send us many more in accordance with the request made on our "Country Notes" page. Shorthanded as our agricultural readers must be, we do not doubt that many of them will yet make an effort to have the peculiar qualities of this year's crops faithfully recorded.

I think you will find this photograph, by Edward Paul, Penzance, of considerable interest. I heard of the field while in Cornwall and asked that it might be photographed in the public interest. Cornwall has raised the crop of oats for which the £50 prize offered by the Sulphate of Ammonia Association has now been awarded. The judges inspected the field three times. Mr. Edward Hosking is seen on his field (Rosevdney Farm, Ludgvan), and, though he is six feet high, the oats are two feet higher than he.—S. L. BENSUSAN.



**F**OR about two hundred years Castletown was the home of the Coxes, a Wiltshire stock which rooted in County Cork in the person of one Michael Cox, who died between 1610 and 1625. His son Richard had a lively career fighting as a captain in Jephson's Dragoons, first on the side of Charles I, and afterwards against him, and met his death in 1652, murdered by a brother officer. His son, another Richard, took to more peaceful employment under the care of the uncle who adopted him. Setting his face Londonwards he sold his patrimony, entered as a student at Gray's Inn, and was called to the Bar. His marriage to a girl of fifteen turned out unprosperously—"this was the rock I had like to split upon, for though she proved a very good wife, yet being disappointed in her portion, which was ill paid by her mother and by dribbles, I retired into the country and lived at Clognakilty for seven years, but very plentifully and pleasantly." An increasing family broke up this idyll of plentifulness and Cox took to the law again. Protestant, zealous and loquacious, he soon found the air of Catholic Cork a little unhealthy, and moved himself and his legal practice to Bristol, where he compiled a dull and inaccurate history of Ireland in his spare time. The Prince of Orange's arrival in England was Cox's opportunity. He wrote some timely pamphlets on William's side, was made secretary to Sir Robert Southwell, proved very useful at the Boyne and drafted a Declaration for William to sign, in which the King thought "Mr. Cox had hit exactly his own mind." Reward came with the Recordship of Waterford,

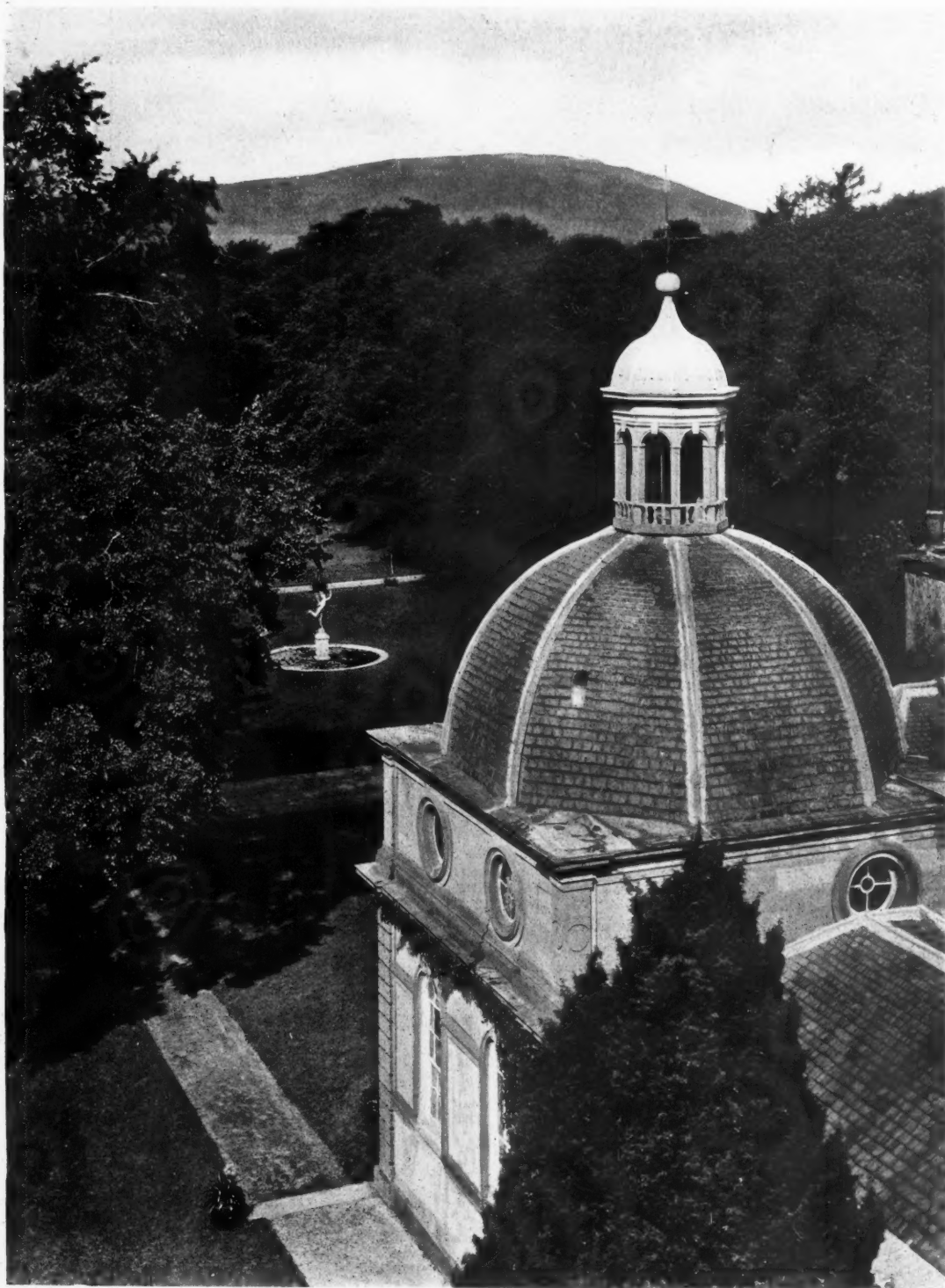
and soon afterwards Cox was appointed second justice of the common pleas. But he also inherited his father's taste for soldiering and, being appointed Governor of Cork in 1691, he was swift to raise eleven regiments, with whose aid he made good his proclamation against the Papists. It is pleasant to note that when the more vigorous Protestants desired to carry their views to the length of depriving the Catholics of their treaty rights, he was so much on the side of fair dealing that he was removed from the privy council and not long afterwards went to England for the good of his health. The knighthood of 1692 was followed by the Irish Lord Chancellorship in 1703 and by a baronetcy in 1706. Cox was made Chief Justice of the Queen's Bench in 1711, but on Anne's death was removed and lived in retirement until 1733. His connection with Castletown was slight, for he only leased the estate from James, Duke of Ormond. He never built a house there, and sub-let the land to Cooke of Cookestown, who seems eventually to have bought it. Sir Richard's baronetcy passed to his grandson, but we are more concerned with his younger son Michael Cox, Bishop of Ossory from 1742 to 1755 and then Archbishop of Cashel until his death in 1779. Michael had married the sister of Edward Cooke, inherited Castletown on the latter's death, and took Anne O'Brien for his second wife. There is a hint of comedy about the Archbishop's memorial dispositions. When Anne Cox also died untimely and left him with an infant son, in 1745, a widower for the second time, he set up to her memory in Kilkenny Cathedral a marble monument.



It was carved by the popular Dutchman Scheemakers, a notable purveyor of garden gods and the joint author, with the architect Kent, of the Shakespeare memorial in Westminster Abbey. Besides inscribing his wife's virtues and charms in the tone of robust optimism popular in that day he left a not inadequate space on which his successors might add a fitting recital of his own claims to the admiration of posterity.

When the Archbishop, after due deliberation—he was ninety when he died—followed his wife to the grave, his family showed no haste to add the “not just” to the

The family took the hint and provided the archbishop's tomb with a fitting inscription, which assures us that he “adorned the various relations of life with polite elegance of demeanour and discharged the duties of his sacred order with dignity and not without praise.” The marble bust in the hall at Castletown seems to confirm this elegance of demeanour, but as His Grace did not leave even a pamphlet by which we may judge the quality of his mind, his personality must remain food for speculation. There is a malicious story to the effect that a large sum of money was left to the



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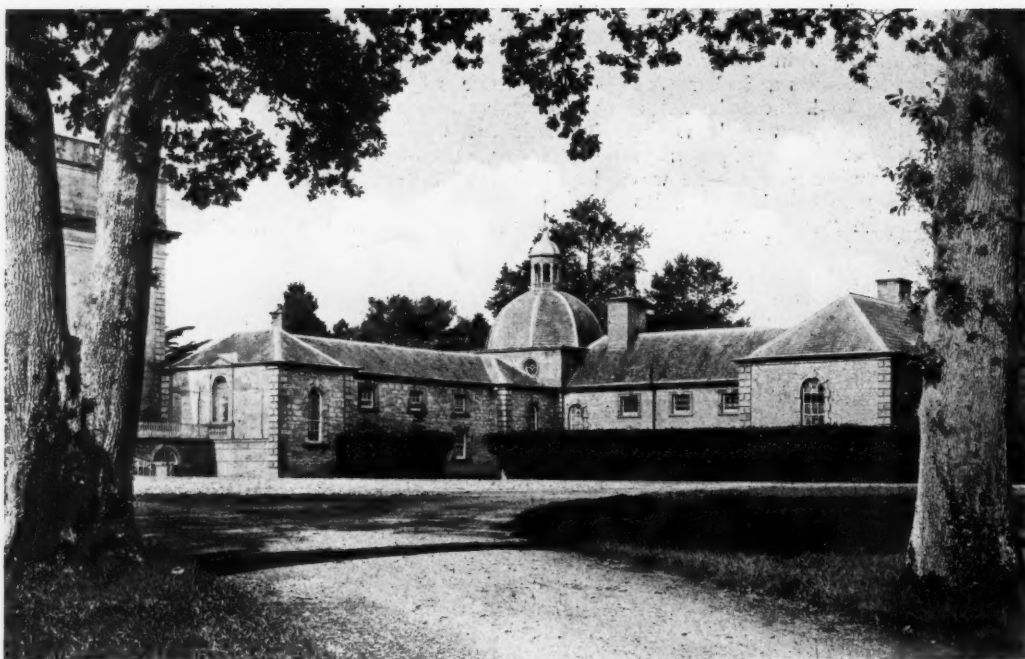
2.—ROOF OF ONE OF THE PAVILIONS.

"COUNTRY LIFE."

monument. Whether it was Edmond Malone or Marcus Monck, rector of Rathdowney, composed the following lines—as to which there seems some doubt—they were inspired by the empty tablet:

Vainest of mortals, hadst thou sense or grace,  
Thou ne'er had left this ostentatious space,  
Nor given thine enemies such ample room  
To tell posterity, upon thy tomb,  
A truth, by friends and foes alike confess'd,  
That by this blank thy life is best express'd.

archbishop to build a noble church, and that therewith he built a very small church and the large house now illustrated. There is no need to believe it. Cox had done well financially with his marriages, and the episcopal incomes of eighteenth century Ireland were on a generous scale. Arthur Young sets down the annual tithe of the Cashel Archbishopric as being worth £4,000 a year, but adds: "I was informed in conversation that the lands . . . would if lett as a private estate, be worth . . . near thirty thousand a year."



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3.—NORTH-WEST OFFICE WING.

"COUNTRY LIFE."



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4.—THE SOUTH-EAST LOGGIA AND PAVILION.

"COUNTRY LIFE."

Be that as it may, Cox's income was enough to allow of a racecourse being laid out at Castletown, and it may be assumed that the monument's reference to his episcopal conduct as being "not without praise" does not exclude the idea that he rejected an unduly ascetic interpretation of an archbishop's life and duty.

His best claim on our regard is in the direction of "polite elegance." He proved it by his choice of an architect for Castletown, Davis Duchart. Mr. Sadleir writes in the fifth volume of the Georgian Society that he was "Daviso de Arcort, a Sardinian Engineer who built a house in the Queen's County, called Brockley Park, for Lord Roden in 1768, as well as the Custom House at Limerick, but seems to have been principally engaged in this country (Ireland) in the construction of canals."

Arthur Young has a reference to him in "A Tour in Ireland," but gets his name wrong. Writing of the navigation schemes, which, if carried through, would have greatly increased Dublin's prosperity, he says: "A Mr. Dularte, an Italian Engineer and very ingenious architect, has had for a few years the superintendence of the work; but the temper of the nation has been so soured by disappointments that he has not the support which he thinks necessary to do anything effectual."

Duchart's will was dated

in 1780 and proved in 1786, but it is not known exactly when he died. As he bequeathed legacies to friends in Italy we may reject the jolly theory that his Italian name concealed an acute Scotsman named Deuchars, who realised that foreign artists command better employment than the native, as the singer Mr. Foley found

a Southern origin. No other work of Duchart is known prior to 1768, and it is reasonable to place the designing of Castletown somewhere about 1770, because the bill for the plasterwork is dated 1774. Four years is not an unreasonable time for such a house to have been building. The approach to Castletown is made the more



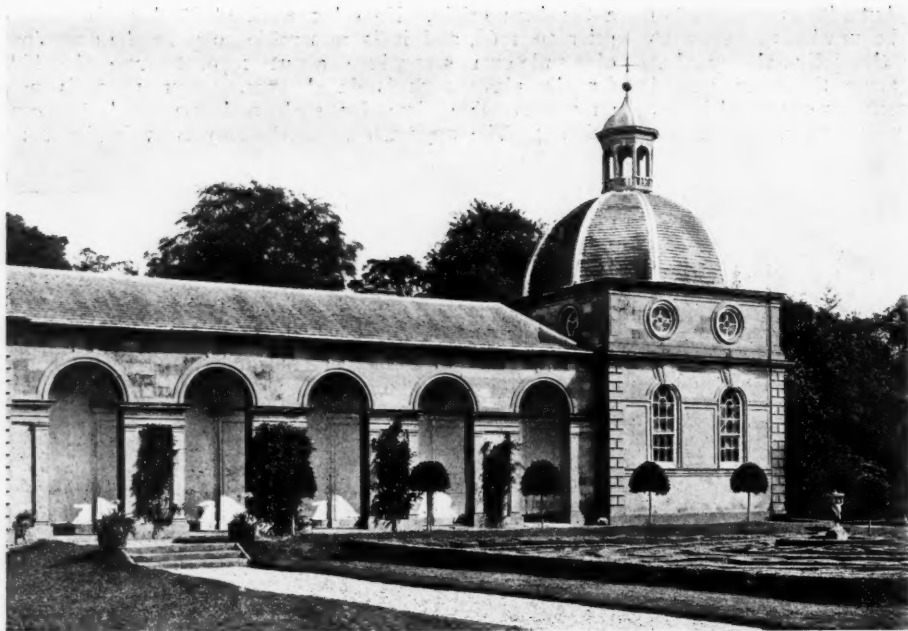
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5.—AT CASTLETOWN.

"COUNTRY LIFE."

when he renamed himself Signor Foli. The best reason for accepting Duchart as an Italian is that his work looks like it. It has more scholarship than appears in most of the Georgian work of the period, and the long loggias on either side of the main block finishing in domed pavilions proclaim

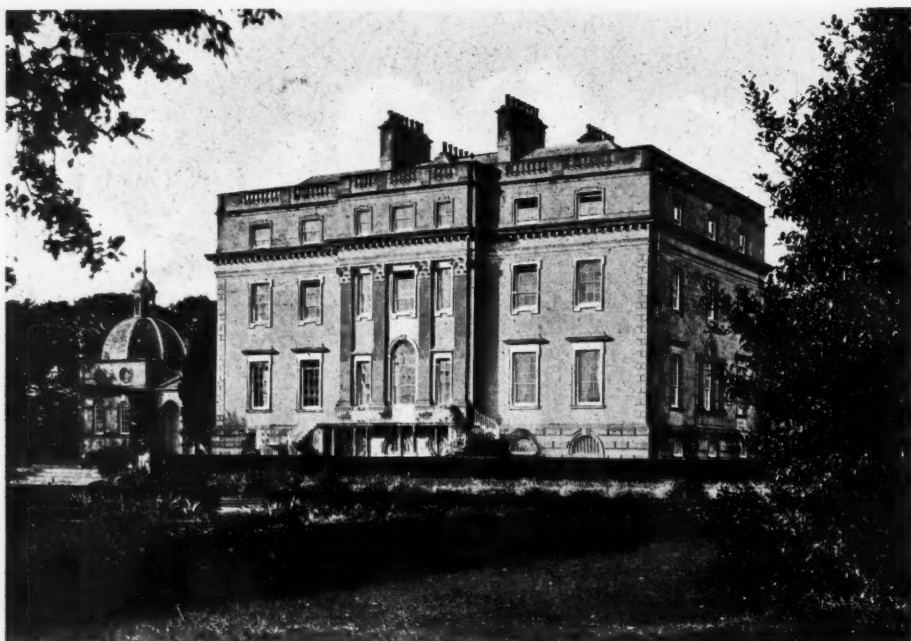
dignified by the skilful disposition of the service wing at the north-west side of the main block and the stable wing which balances it. A broad flight of steps leads up to a wide terrace which gives entrance to the hall of the *piano nobile*.



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6.—FROM THE SOUTH-WEST.

"COUNTRY LIFE."



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7.—GARDEN FRONT FROM THE SOUTH.

"COUNTRY LIFE"



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8.—THE SOUTH-EAST FRONT.

"COUNTRY LIFE."

Next week we shall illustrate the interiors, which are notable for the beauty of their plaster enrichments, but meanwhile the outside may be described. The masonry is particularly good, and is wholly of unpolished Kilkenny marble on the garden front and of the marble and dressed sandstone on the entrance side. No roof covering shows on the main block, and the copper which once covered the pavilion cupolas was removed over a century ago to pay some debts. It was replaced by slates, but without loss of appearance, for the size and texture of the slates are admirable. Duchart's competence as a planner is shown by his apt modelling of the outlying parts of the building as seen from various points of view, as, for example, in Fig. 3, and the carefulness of his detail can be noted in the treatment of the loggias (Fig. 4). When the present owners went first to Castletown the gardens were lacking in incident and the house sat rather gauntly amid a setting of natural beauty well seen in Fig. 5. What it needed, and what has since been provided, was careful treatment of the garden adjoining the house. The war has left its mark here, as on most gardens, but the neat parterre seen in Fig. 6 has been maintained, and the trim lawns have points of interest in the Flying Mercury set in a round pool (Fig. 2), and in the three lead statues (Figs. 9 to 11). These latter were brought to Castletown from Clearwell Court, Gloucestershire. The mail-clad figure and the man in a tunic and turned up shoes are probably of Flemish or Dutch origin, but the boy with the bird may well have come from a London statuary's yard.

With the exception of these additions to the garden, Castletown has changed little since the time of Archbishop Cox. After his death the house was occupied in turn by his son Richard and his grandson, another Michael, who served as High Sheriff of County Kilkenny in 1819. The latter's son Richard inherited Castletown and the baronetcy of the elder branch, but he died childless, and the estate passed to his sister, who had married Colonel William Villiers-Stuart, from whose son, Colonel H. J. R. Villiers-Stuart, Castletown was bought in 1909 by Colonel W. H. Wyndham-Quin. The house has been repaired and redecorated with great judgment, as will appear in next week's illustrations.



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9-11.—THREE LEAD FIGURES FROM CLEARWELL COURT.

"C.L."



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12.—CASTLETOWN: THE SOUTH-WEST SIDE.

"COUNTRY LIFE."

## BUYING BRITISH REMOUNTS IN AMERICA

By BRIGADIER-GENERAL T. R. F. BATE.

**A**S quite two-thirds of the horses and practically all the mules used in the British Army in France and the other theatres of war come from the American Continent, it will, perhaps, be of interest to trace the history of the Army horse and mule from its source on the other side of the Atlantic till it reaches the remount depot in the United Kingdom.

It is interesting to know that the first batch of American and Canadian horses arrived in England in October, 1914. In the early stages of the activities of the British Remount Commission in Canada and U.S.A. practically the whole continent was covered in the search for suitable animals. Later experience proved that it was more profitable from every point of view to centre all activities in the middle western states, which are *par excellence* the draught horse producing area of the continent.

The proposition in front of the Commission was to produce a steady flow of horses and mules to England at a rate varying between 25,000 and 10,000 a month. This proposition may roughly be divided under three headings: (1) The actual purchase; (2) care after purchase, including railway transit; and (3) embarkation.

Before describing the actual method of purchase it will be as well to make a brief analysis of the fortunes of the animal before he comes before the official purchaser. It has been found time and again that in purchasing such large numbers of animals as are in this case involved it is imperative to buy only from well known and reliable horse dealers. Such dealers have their show-yards in large towns where the livestock business is a big concern. The chief centres used by us are Chicago, St. Paul (in Minnesota), Sioux City and Des Moines in Iowa, St. Louis, Kansas City and also, in the earlier stages, Toronto and Montreal in Canada.

In each of these centres one, or perhaps, in some cases, two or three firms of reliable dealers engage to show to our purchaser so many horses a week.

Now, the big dealer buys most of the horses he shows, both buying himself and sending out agents among the farmers, among whom he has a regular *clientèle*. The dealer who cannot afford to put down a lot of ready money for purchase outright allows smaller dealers and also farmers to show horses under his, the dealer's, aegis, the small man having to pay the dealer so much on every horse bought by the Government inspector. Such horses are known as subject horses. This latter method though in many ways undesirable, cannot be entirely eliminated. When it has been

arranged with a dealer to show horses to one of our purchasers he is given a description of the class of animal required—height, weight, etc. After a few days' experience with the purchaser the dealer gets to know the type of horse that will be taken, and tells his buyers accordingly; and very soon, if he is a good dealer, the "rejects" should be few and far between.

Dealers do not find it worth while to keep horses a day longer than necessary before they show them to the purchaser. I have often known horses taken off the train by the dealer in the morning and shown for purchase in the afternoon. In this way purchasers are confronted with the task of selecting suitable horses from animals in every sort of condition—some over-fat and soft, others hard and fit, while many are in very poor condition. This brings us to the actual method of purchase—our purchasers have all, or nearly all, been selected from men who have had lifelong experience in buying and handling horses. Each buying centre has its allotted one or more purchasers, each purchaser buying from one or more dealers, and each having his own veterinary officer. The procedure is always substantially the same, differing only in matters of detail.

At a suitable place in the dealer's yard there is a "show alley" where the purchaser stands. Each horse is walked up to him. Unless immediately rejected, it is then walked away and trotted, and if passed by the purchaser as desirable as regards conformation, it is handed on to the veterinary officer to be examined for soundness—including being galloped (cavalry horses ridden, draught horses driven) for wind. If passed by the veterinary officer it is put in a pen alongside—under the eye of both purchaser and veterinary officer—until the pen contains seven or ten horses, when the lot are branded with a broad arrow, purchaser's brand, etc. Manes of draught horses are hogged, tails trimmed, shoes, if any, removed; after which the animals

are put in the pens reserved for purchased animals. No horse is considered actually bought until it is branded; and, in the case of heavy horses, the formality of weighing is insisted on before branding.

It may be interesting here to touch on the much debated question as to the number of horses one man can buy in a day before he loses his "eye." Few men agree on this point, and, no doubt, some men can buy more than others; but after seeing many thousands of horses and mules purchased the writer is strongly of opinion that, as regards horses at any rate, there are few men who can buy more than 100 a day without laying themselves open to a strong probability of their "form" deteriorating.

Having now got to



"A WRONG 'UN." MOUNTING; A TEST TO SEE IF "RIDERS" ARE BROKEN TO SADDLE.

the period when the animal has become the property of the British Government, we come next to that stage of his existence which includes safe transportation to the Atlantic seaport, and all the machinery of organisation which this entails. Before entering on such a descriptive itinerary it will be as well to discuss briefly two main principles, either of which it has been possible to adopt.

An even perfunctory knowledge of the map of North America will enable anyone to realise the enormous expanse of country which has to be traversed between the purchase area in the middle western states and the embarkation area on the Atlantic seaboard. One of the most serious factors which has to be contended with in the horse business in North America—a factor which I venture to think is anything but widely understood in this country—is shipping fever, which, speaking untechnically, is a sort of influenza constantly resulting in pneumonia or similar pulmonary diseases. It is a deplorable, but indisputable, fact that over 70 per cent. of horses moved over rail contract this shipping fever—some directly and others a considerable period after detraining. So far, though researches are continually being made, only qualified success with preventive serum has been achieved. We have two possible principles to adopt: Should we keep the horses in the country a sufficient time to let them get over their shipping fever before embarkation; or should we embark them with the least possible delay—the latter alternative meaning the contraction of the disease on board ship and after arrival in the United Kingdom? The former alternative has been adopted, and, in the writer's opinion, there is no doubt whatever that it is the soundest plan. It will be seen easily that the adoption of the principle of keeping the animals in America till they are "salted" entails the upkeep of considerable organisation, besides that of purchase on the other side of the Atlantic.

It has been found that the minimum period of detention from time of purchase till date of embarkation is seven weeks, and, though circumstances cannot always be such as to allow of this being adhered to, this procedure is adopted as closely as possible. A glance at the map will show that the area in operation is most

simply divided into two zones—the purchasing zone and the embarkation zone. In each of these zones there is a system of remount depôts—situated as far as possible in places with suitable railway facilities.

It may be mentioned here that the chief sources of infection of shipping fever are dealers' yards, stockyards and railway cars, all of which, owing to their continual floating population, become so infected as to be almost hopeless of satisfactory sanitation. Consequently, horses, once they are purchased, are kept as brief a time as possible in any of the three. There is a law in the States which forbids any horses being kept on a train without off-loading, watering and feeding for longer than thirty-six hours. As most of the journeys from the purchasing zone are of several days' duration, it has been found necessary to form subsidiary remount depôts at suitable points on selected railways, such depôts being used as off-loading and feeding stations. All these depôts—purchasing area, embarkation area and off-loading station—require and possess their necessary staffs of executive and veterinary officers and subordinate employés.

Now let us come to the movement of the animal itself. We left him just purchased walking out of the dealer's yard branded with the broad arrow, etc., and the property of the British Government. At some purchase points there are depôts in the vicinity, and the horses are walked over and come under the supervision of the depôt officer on the very day of purchase. At others the depôt may, through force of circumstances, be located a short train journey away. In the latter case the purchasing officer has to make local arrangements until he has collected a sufficient number to fill a train, which varies from 300 to 600. In either case the animals get a rest for a week to ten days or perhaps a fortnight before starting on their real journey towards the embarkation area. During that time they are malleined in accordance with the glanders test. Those which show any symptoms of sickness are segregated, and from day to day the fittest are cut out and put into pens in which only those fit to travel, colloquially known as "shippers," are kept.

Every depôt has its veterinary hospital and staff, into which serious cases are put. Now let us imagine we are starting off



BRANDING A "PURCHASE."



AN ENTRAINING DEPÔT FOR 1,550 HEAD OF HORSES.

with a trainload of "shippers" from a depôt in the purchasing area. First, we note that every horse on our train has had its temperature taken as a final precaution, and any found exceeding 100deg. are rejected and retained till another occasion. We are going on a journey of about thirty-six hours. If in winter, probably in a temperature of 25deg. below zero; if in summer, it may be 110deg. in the shade. We are now entirely in the hands of the railway authorities, but our departure and probable time of arrival, with the numbers and classification of the animals on the train have been wired on to the commanding officer of the off-loading depôt, where we are looking forward to having the horses taken off, rested, watered and fed.

Let us arrive! We are met by various members of the off-loading depôt, probably including the C.O. and his veterinary officer. Off-loading is a quick process, and probably in half an hour every horse is out of the train. They are put into pens alongside the railway, when the sick and seedy-looking ones are again segregated from the fit, and hospital cases are taken off to the veterinary hospital. This, I venture to think, gives a general idea of how transportation is organised and carried out.

The next stage or stages are worked on exactly the same plan; always remembering that every horse is examined and every horse has his temperature taken before starting on any railway journey. Theoretically this should mean that only fit horses arrive in the depôts in the embarkation area. Practically it means that, though it is impossible, or appears impossible, not to receive some sick horses in the embarkation depôts, at any rate every possible precaution has been taken to make the number of sick as small as possible. No effort is spared to try and keep the embarkation depôts free from being clogged with numbers of sick animals. In the embarkation depôts the animals get a final rest of several weeks, which, with a system of extensive runs, makes a sort of finishing process before going on board ship.

Embarkation itself requires little or no description except to remark that the final selection for fitness of animals from the embarkation depôts for sending on board ship is made with even greater care than former inspections. In this connection it must be mentioned that the adequateness of the arrangements on board ship, for which the embarkation officer—also a remount official—is responsible is a priceless factor in the matter of the condition of the animals on their arrival in the United Kingdom.

So far little or no mention has been made of the different types of horses which are purchased for the Army, nor has the mule been more than barely mentioned. Either of these subjects is worthy of more space than can be devoted to it here, but a brief description of both would appear to be desirable. Broadly speaking, three types or classifications of horses have been purchased and exported from the United States and Canada—cavalry, light artillery, heavy artillery. Experts have known for some time and our purchasing activities have proved

beyond contention that the cavalry horse as we know him in England does not exist in North America in any numbers which are appreciable for modern war requirements. What have been bought as cavalry are the best that can be procured, but that is all. The cavalry horse is not a commercial factor in America, and that, in a nutshell, is the reason of the scarcity of the type.

The light artillery horse is the commercial equine article of the country, and has proved himself good through and through. It is a remarkable fact that after the export of hundreds of thousands of this class of horse the high standard is still being maintained. The requirements for the light artillery horse are: Height, 15h. 2ins. to 16h., weight about 1,200lb., short on the leg, short in the back, strong in the neck and quarters, and as much quality as procurable. The best of these horses are bought from the states of Iowa and Illinois. The strains of Shire, Clyde, Belgian, Normandy and Percheron are the predominant types, and it is a matter of contention which is the best. One can only give one's opinion that, from what one has seen, a predominating Percheron strain appears to give by far the best results.

Heavy artillery horse production in any quantities in America has been a recent innovation, and it has been, and is, a very difficult matter to procure an appreciable number of such horses which possess the requisite weight. Two classifications have been purchased so far, those of a minimum weight of 1,400lb. and those of a minimum weight of 1,500lb. It must be remembered that American and Canadian breeders hate hair on the leg, and consequently the so-called heavy horse of North America with practically clean legs never looks the weight of his cousin in this country. Complaint has been made that the American heavy horse is too light; but when the writer left America in March, 1918, there were then coming in many heavy horses which would compare well with our heavy cart-horses. In this class, again, Iowa and Illinois are predominant, though many good heavy horses have been bought in Canada. The same strains are predominant, and, though the Percheron maintains his high place, the Shire blood runs him very close.

At long last we come to the mule, who, though he occupies this tardy position, is probably the most serviceable and satisfactory animal used in the war. Indeed, the writer, who has had experience of both horses and mules with a battery in two theatres of the war, would unhesitatingly say that if he had the remounting arrangements for any future war, mules would supplant horses to the greatest possible extent. Though for purchasing purposes mules in America have been divided at different times into several classifications, as a general principle mules may be regarded as being divided into three main categories—heavy mules for heavy artillery purposes in Eastern war theatres, light draught mules which have practically taken the place of horses in wheeled transport other than artillery, and pack mules for pack transport. The heavy mules run to

a height of 16h. 2ins. or even 16h. 3ins., and weigh about 1,300lb. The light draught mules are between 15h. and 13h. 3ins., and weigh about 1,100lb., while the pack mules are under 15h. down to 14h. 1in. All these types of mules are found in the middle western states of Missouri and Kansas, and the southern states of Tennessee, Texas, Alabama and Georgia, though one does not get the larger type much out of Missouri and Kansas.

In the earlier stages of the war, cotton, for which industry the mule is entirely used, was down to 6 cents a pound and mules were easy to get and procurable at reasonable prices. Now cotton is up to 27 cents a pound, sugar and other agricultural industries are at a premium, and owing to these causes, coupled with the fact that the capital number of mules available was

never an inexhaustible quantity, the supply of mules is daily becoming more difficult.

In conclusion, it is only fair to describe a few of the sterling qualities of this often vilified and still more often caricatured animal. The mule is practically immune from many of the diseases inherent in the horse—notably he suffers less than half as much from shipping fever. He, as a general rule, has sounder legs than the horse. He can certainly stand more hardships. He eats less and is less particular about his food, though more particular about his water. He thrives on work. Great as has been the success of the American gun horse, still greater, though perhaps less appreciated, have been the war qualities of the American mule. Long may he thrive!

## IN THE GARDEN

### AN AUGUST FLOWER BORDER.

A SHORT piece of double flower border is planted specially for August bloom and for a harmony of colouring of purple, pink and white with a ground-work of grey foliage. Here are great bushes of Gypsophila with white and pink Pentstemons and Snapdragons, the fine cool pink Gladiolus America, Hydrangeas and Echinops at the back. There are also groups of pink Hollyhocks, but they do not happen to come within the picture. Several plants of Clematis Jackmanni are trained on pea sticks to come over the Globe Thistles and partly mix with them. In the front spaces are patches of Ageratum. Much of the front edge is of grey foliage of Stachys and Artemisia Stelleriana, and further back is the taller grey of Artemisia Ludoviciana, an accommodating plant that can be cut back to any desired height. G. J.

### THE VALUE OF VEGETABLE COMPETITIONS.

THERE is nothing like a show to infuse a desire among the present-day vegetable growers to improve their knowledge and skill in the art of gardening. But the vegetable shows of to-day should be, and in most cases are, very different from those held in pre-war days. The aim and end of all vegetable shows should be to raise the standard of vegetables for table use and to increase the home-grown supply. Quantity with quality should be the desiderata, and not mere size. Generally speaking, large vegetables are objectionable, especially to the cook. We should discourage the production of extra large specimens, especially if they are obtained by curtailment quantity. For instance, it is possible to grow Peas on the cordon principle and to limit each plant to three or four pods; or Runner Beans may be grown to an unusual length by limiting the number of pods to the vine. Obviously this would not be in the best interests of food production. Again, it has been shown that, given equally good cultivation, very large onions do not give so great a weight per rod as smaller, closely grown samples. These are reasons why the vegetable produce of to-day should be different from the ultra-exhibition produce of a few years ago. The classes for vegetables should be modified to suit present-day requirements.

**The Show Marrow.**—This point is well illustrated in the case of the Vegetable Marrow. If Marrows are shown for table use they should be young, tender and small. The judge would test the tenderness of the Marrow by pressing it with his thumbnail. The very large Marrows which always put in an appearance at village shows and harvest festivals stand a very poor chance of winning a prize. But Marrows are now of great value for storing and jam-making, and such produce must be judged from a different standpoint. The way out of the difficulty is to have two classes, one for table use and the other for storing. There is an advantage in having large Marrows so long as they keep well; not only can they be made into jam, but they may also

be used for pies or cooking at will. It may not be generally known that Marrows may be used with Apples in the making of Apple pie—a suggestion that will commend itself to the thrifty housewife, especially during a season when Apples are very scarce. A few days ago the writer was judging vegetables at a show at Walton-on-Thames, and one exhibitor staged a Marrow which was cut in 1917.

Although a year old, this Marrow was perfectly sound—it had been well baked in the sun before storing, and when ripe it was cut and hung up in a dry shed. As Marrows are plentiful again this season, good opportunity is offered of prolonging the supply. The large, well-ripened Pumpkin which, by the

way, always met with so much disfavour from judges at flower shows, also makes a useful winter vegetable if kept in a dry room; it can be cut like a cheese as required, and will keep for weeks after it is first cut.

**Classes for Home-Grown Haricots.**—Where shows are held in September or later, classes should be included for home-grown Haricots. The Dutch Brown, the Phenomenal (white) and the mottled seeds such as the Canadian Yellow Eye, all go to make up interesting dishes. The seeds should also be shown in the dry pods. With French Beans or Scarlet Runners the green Beans should be young and tender, and this is more important than mere size. If the judge has any doubt about them he will bend the Beans to try their age.

#### A Sunflower Competition.

While on the subject of competitions it may not be out of place to draw attention to the Sunflower Competition announced in *The Garden*. A prize of £5 is offered for the largest head of Sunflower seed grown in the United Kingdom, and five second prizes of £1 each. It is an open competition, and the heads of seed should be sent, any time up to September 30th, to Mr. H. M. Faure, The Manor House, Claygate, with the name and address of the competitor. There is no entrance fee, and the Editor of *The Garden* will act as judge. The sole object of the competition is to increase the yield of Sunflower seed for poultry feeding—a very praiseworthy object which will help to alleviate the shortage of grain, while the seed, which is rich in oils, will be more than ever welcome now that our supplies from Russia are cut off.

Another incentive to increased vegetable cultivation is a competition for the best cropped allotments, and as this is without doubt one of the finest forms of competition for allotment workers, we are pleased to note that it is greatly on the increase in many parts of the country. It often happens that the man with the best cropped allotment is also the winner for collections and single dishes of vegetables, and this is as it should be. Samples for the show tables should be selected from the garden stock, and the showing of ultra-exhibition produce grown at the expense of quantity should be discouraged.

H. C.



PURPLE, PINK AND WHITE ON A GROUND OF GREY.

## LITERATURE

## A BOOK OF THE WEEK

*St. George's Day and Other Poems*, by Sir Henry Newbolt. (Murray.)

**A** REVIEW of Sir Henry Newbolt's new book, *St. George's Day and Other Poems*, must, to a large extent, take the form of an expostulation. It is a very small volume of only forty-seven pages. With that no fault is to be found, but a reader has a right to expect that if a very small number of poems are bound together they should come up to the highest standard of the writer. It would be flattery to say that the dozen numbers of this little book are all worthy of the pen from which they come. The best is a piece called "Farewell," which we at once hasten to quote for its beauty and dignity and feeling:

Mother, with unbowed head  
Hear thou across the sea  
The farewell of the dead,  
The dead who died for thee.  
Greet them again with tender words and grave,  
For, saving thee, themselves they could not save.

To keep the house unharmed  
Their fathers built so fair,  
Deeming endurance armed  
Better than brute despair,  
They found the secret of the word that saith  
"Service is sweet, for all true life is death."

So greet thou well thy dead  
Across the homeless sea,  
And be thou comforted  
Because they died for thee.  
Far off they served, but now their deed is done  
For evermore their life and thine are one.

Another piece well deserving of its place is called "A Letter from the Front." This has not the magic of verse, but it has an unexaggerated sense of reality which gives a value of its own. We have seen paragraphs in the papers explaining the facts of which it is a version. The narrator comes across a young gunner-subaltern in the early morning stalking along with a rook-rifle in his hand and followed by a domestic cat. As a sportsman he sympathises with the youth, but as a superior officer he feels bound to reprove him and recall the orders of the Commander-in-Chief forbidding English officers to annoy their Allies by hunting and shooting. The young officer stood and saluted and said earnestly: "I beg your pardon, sir, I was only going out to shoot a sparrow to feed my cat with." We have printed this out in prose form, and the reader unacquainted with the book will have some difficulty in believing that the exact words of the poem are quoted. The last two lines we also give, copied verbally, but without breaking it into lines: "I may be wrong, and I may have told it badly, but it struck me as being extremely ludicrous." Anyone judging by the form, then, would say that this is not verse but only prose. Yet to be just to the author it is poetry, and the baldness of the language is a merit and not a fault. It brings before us a fine morning, the elderly officer divided between a love of sport and a sense of military duty half-heartedly chiding the young officer shooting a sparrow for his cat, and thus forms an attractive and imaginative picture. This and the "Farewell" must have a place in any complete edition of the works of Newbolt. But the other pieces neither produce a feeling of reality nor render that magic without which poetry is nothing. As an example we might select the piece called "Sacramentum Supremum." It is dated 1905, but, nevertheless, is an attempt to interpret the feelings with which soldiers meet their death at the last trench. Its culmination is in the second verse:

Draw near together; none be last or first;  
We are no longer names, but one desire;  
With the same burning of the soul we thirst,  
And the same wine to-night shall quench our fire.  
Drink! to our fathers who begot us men,  
To the dead voices that are never dumb,  
Then to the land of all our loves, and then  
To the long parting, and the age to come.

Now it will be very obvious to the reader that there is nothing in these lines answering to fact. Not in this way, not with thoughts like these do men hold out with nothing but death in front of them. It is a mere imagination on the part of the poet who avoids the tremendously difficult task of finding words that will preserve the character and emotions

of the men without being forced or fantastic. It has not the touch that we call magic.

In nearly all of the poems, except the two selected for particular commendation, we hear echoes and strains from what the poet has written before. He is living on his capital and showing no new inspiration. It may be said that we are applying a severe test, but that should be the last ground of complaint urged by the author himself. He has set, in the best of his work, a very high standard, and surely it is better to urge him to live up to it than to slip into the easy way of praising work simply because it has a considerable name attached to it. The "Farewell," which is dated 1910, shows that Sir Henry's right hand has not yet forgot its cunning, and it is no unreasonable demand that if a dozen short poems are published as a book they should one and all be of the first water.

*Thumb Nails*, by Mrs. Henry Dudeney. (Mills and Boon, 5s.)

THE worst story in Mrs. Henry Dudeney's book of eight is lifted above the commonplace by her address in presenting character; four, at least, it raises far above the ordinary. And "worst" is an ungracious adjective to use in speaking of these tales told in clear, unaffected English and faithfully imagined. "Eating Cake," the story of a man's return from the front to reconciliation with a faithless wife, turns on that something deeper than conventions or ethics, because of which "you can never destroy marriage. Not all the magic of the law, not all the mutiny of the heart. The thing is done." It is a fine "Thumb Nail" sketch, and so is "A Worker in Fine Flax," where interest is centred on just such an adventure of the soul as shows Mrs. Dudeney's delicate talent at its best.

*The Humphries Touch*, by Frederick Watson. (Collins, 5s.)

THE idea of placing a world-famous financier of fifteen years of age among the scholars at "Warrenders," most ancient and exclusive of schools, is funny enough in itself, but Mr. Watson does not stop there. His George Andrews Humphries, with his total inability to understand an ordinary schoolboy's place in the scheme of things, is allowed to throw his full weight of commercial cunning and financial resource into the balance against the traditions of "Warrender." George Andrews has his failures and his successes, but wealth and will tell in the long run. He suffers the indignities common to errant youth, but lays his plans so well that at length "Warrenders" and all it stands for lies at his mercy. But there is just one small point which he has overlooked. There is to be a novel written by an ally of his, one of the masters, which is to hold "Warrenders" up to the derision of the wider public, and unfortunately it has the opposite effect. In spite of some shrewd thrusts at fashionable novelists, famous politicians, facile bishops, the Public School system and the Stock Exchange, the book is really one long joke which the author enjoys as much as his readers, and a very good joke, too, if not altogether a new one.

*Piccadilly Jim*, by P. G. Wodehouse. (Jenkins, 6s.)

IT is not every novelist who has the courage to make his unregenerated hero a really objectionable young man, but Mr. P. G. Wodehouse has created in *Piccadilly Jim* a youngster whose only saving graces are a kind heart, a ready fist, and an even more ready tongue. What is more remarkable, when regeneration sets in it affects his undesirable qualities only, and leaves his heart as kind and his fist and tongue as ready as ever, for which Mr. Wodehouse should earn his readers' gratitude. The plot through which *Piccadilly Jim* moves is rather that of a glorified musical comedy; there are millionaires and pugilists and lady detectives, an inventor who only pretends to invent a butler who is really his mistress's brother-in-law, a nobleman who is really a "crook" (but that, of course, is an old story) and, most complicated of all, Jimmy, who becomes an inmate of his aunt's palatial New York residence by pretending to be himself. All the nice people, Jimmy reformed among them, come to their own in the end, and all the nasty ones come to nothing; it is all very American, very brisk, very improbable and quite amusing.

*Top Speed*, by W. Pett Ridge. (Methuen, 6s.)

MR. PETT RIDGE excels in writing the kind of story which appeals to the childish love of detail inherent in most of us. Here he deals with the history of two successful years in the life of a suburban dairyman who becomes Mayor, to the alarm of his wife, and on the book's last page sends up the maidservant with her morning tea, instructed to break to her the thrilling news that she is now "my lady." Mr. Donaldson, or "Pa" as his wife calls him, meets with troubles at home and troubles abroad, but surmounts them all, chiefly by the power of common sense and good temper. His creator has so many jolly little everyday things to tell about his hero and his family that it all seems more like fact than fiction, and if it is never very thrilling, it is also never dull or slow.

*An Enquiry into the Analytical Mechanism of the Internal Ear*, by Sir Thomas Wrightson, Bart., M.I.C.E. (Macmillan, 12s. 6d. net.)

THIS is an interesting scientific treatise on the mechanism of the internal ear—"that wonderful machine which transforms sound waves into brain messages." The author is an intelligent layman, by profession an engineer, who has made a life study of the subject and has had considerable help, which he gratefully acknowledges, from Dr. Arthur Keith, who also adds a voluminous and illuminating appendix. Copious diagrams are given and a short bibliography is added. The value of the book would have been enhanced by the addition of an index.

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# "PELMANISM."

By ADMIRAL LORD BERESFORD, G.C.B., G.C.V.O.

**A**T the invitation of the Directors I have investigated the Pelman system. I judge it from the experience gained during the fifty years I was associated with the training of officers, men, and boys in the Royal Navy. The old sailing Navy provided the finest possible mental and physical training. It taught initiative, presence of mind, accurate observation, habitual defiance of danger, ready resource, and an extraordinary hardihood. At sea a man holds his life on the condition that he possesses these qualities. Frequent emergencies are part of the ordinary routine, and the penalty of failing to meet them is inevitable. There is no arguing with a gale of wind.

Things happen oftener at sea than on land. There are moments when they happen so suddenly that there is no time to give an order, and a man must act instantly on his own initiative, and act rightly, or it will be too late. It was for this reason that the old sail drill and seaman-ship training were extremely rigorous. Neither the modern seaman nor the landsman owns any conception of the severity of sail drill in a fleet, in which each ship strove to outdo the other, and in which many a man lost his life by falling from aloft. The emulation inspired by the competition of ship with ship in the Fleet made a powerful motive for exertion and smartness. There was not then, and is not now, anything comparable with it on land. When the Navy changed from sail to steam it became necessary to devise other methods to train the seaman to smartness, agility, and resource. Education in seamanship, evolutions, steam, electricity, gunnery, torpedo, signalling, and scientific physical training has made the modern naval seaman second to none.

Broadly speaking, the character and the abilities of the competent seaman enable him, should he leave the sea and enter a shore occupation, to learn it readily and to achieve success in a new career. Compared with the conditions which he has been accustomed to face and the difficulties he habitually solves at sea, the seaman finds life ashore a much easier business. Now if we reverse the case and send a landsman to sea, at first he would be helpless.

The object of the Pelman system is to enable the individual to bring all his powers into harmonious action. It would be true to say that to enable the student rightly to use his native abilities is the object of all education. The education of the sea, which is the system I know best, certainly fulfils that purpose. Now a great part of the education of a boy consists in learning how to use his powers, but without knowing what he is doing. He is set to learn lessons and perform tasks day after day, the use of which he often fails to perceive. He does not understand, and he is not told, that the work he is made to do teaches him how to use his intellect. He thinks that education consists in acquiring information, in which very often he takes no interest whatever. Nevertheless, if he does the work required of him he learns to use his powers unconsciously.

The Pelman system teaches the man and the woman both how to use their undeveloped faculties, consciously; and how, consciously, to make the best use of the ability and the knowledge they already possess.

Now, in almost every person, in addition to imperfectly developed faculties, there exists a reserve of latent power and ability, of which the individual himself is usually unconscious. It exists not only in those who have never received an adequate education, but in persons of high education and of considerable achievement. In the course of ordinary life it is often observable that a sudden emergency will call forth an ability to meet it. During the present war, for instance, there have been innumerable examples of men who have done what they never dreamed of doing, and who have achieved what they would have thought impossible. Necessity, danger, and circumstances have forced them to draw upon their reserve powers.

The Pelman system teaches how consciously to develop and employ reserve powers. It teaches, first of all, that their existence is a fact; then how to call upon them and then how to make their use habitual. Again, it is a part of the very remarkable ingenuity of the system, that it applies to the uneducated and the educated alike. The man of slow intellect will, naturally, find the course more difficult than the man who owns a high degree of mental capacity; but both will use the same methods. The requisite differentiation is made in the help given by means of the work-papers by the staff of the Pelman Institute. The answers to the questions set in the work-papers enable the members of the staff to give the student the particular advice he needs. The work-papers are examination papers, the answers to whose questions reveal to what purpose the student has read the books of the course; but they are more. To answer the questions it is necessary that the student should use not merely his memory but his reason; and, therefore, his answers indicate the degree of his mental ability. Hence it is that a student may fail to answer a single question correctly, yet he may be receiving as much benefit from the exercise as a student who correctly answers all the questions.

The Pelman system does not, except incidentally, impart information. It teaches the student how to gain the information he needs in the quickest way. And this practical ability is not acquired by learning a trick, but by consciously observing and following the natural laws which regulate the mind. The information in question may be practical or theoretical; it may consist in technical practice, or in the results of observation, or in the knowledge to be gained from books; the method of acquiring it is the same.

And the Pelman system also teaches the student how to retain his knowledge. *It teaches him how to remember.* There are, of course, certain peculiar defects of memory which no system can cure. Nor can the Pelman system restore the failing memory of old age, though in many cases the course will improve it. But, apart from these exceptions, the system produces an extraordinary improvement in the power of memory. What is called a bad memory is usually due rather to mental indolence than to mental defect. The Pelman system shows the student how to overcome that indolence, and also teaches various methods, based upon the natural laws of association, each of which is devised to apply to a particular kind of knowledge; as, for instance, signalling, the parts of a ship, identification of a ship's company, historical events and their dates, and a series of miscellaneous items.

In middle life, when the energy of youth is waning, when the illusions of youth are dissolving, and when the hopes of youth are fading, a man tends to relax, both physically and mentally. His choice is determined, and the incentive of ambition has wasted away. Because he no longer makes the effort required to keep him in condition his muscles become soft, his chest narrows, his shoulders stoop, his latitude increases out of all proportion to his longitude. At the same time his mental processes become stereotyped; he becomes insusceptible to new ideas; and he begins to lose initiative. It is for this reason that I have always advocated the making of Admirals at a much younger age than the age at which captains are promoted under the present system. The elder man has the advantage of experience, but the younger has all the other advantages. It does not matter how old the Admiral may be so long as he is mentally and physically fit; but he should begin his experience as an Admiral while he is young.

Now, as a course of physical training and continued physical exercise will restore the middle-aged to bodily efficiency and enable them to retain vigour and agility to extreme

old age, so a course of mental training and continued mental exercise will restore the middle-aged to mental enterprise, perception, and initiative, enabling them to make full use of that experience which is their recompense for the loss of their youth. The Pelman system provides the course of mental training and teaches the method of continued exercises required.

The test of the value of the Pelman system, like the test of the value of any other system, is the result. What is the testimony of the students who have taken the Course? I have read many letters written by students when they have completed their course. These epistles are signed by men in every profession and trade, and in every rank of them. The Services contribute letters from Admirals down ranks and ratings to ordinary seamen and stokers, and from Generals to privates, and it is remarkable that almost without exception these documents affirm the benefit received by the writers from the Pelman course of study.

Many of the letters received by the Pelman Institute from the lower deck and from the ranks during the Course begin with an apology for delay in sending their work-papers. The seaman explains that just as he was sitting down in his mess to the work his ship was ordered to sail, and he has since had no time to spare by day or by night. The soldier says that just as he was lying down in his dug-out and engaging in Pelmanism by the light of a solitary candle the Boche attacked, and after it was all over the soldier could not find his papers. But they stick to the Course in spite of all. And during the spells of inaction at sea, and intervals spent behind the lines on land, the study of the Pelman system is described as an inestimable relief to monotony, and as giving a new interest to life.

The Pelman Institute, as I understand the matter, does not profess to work miracles. What it does profess to accomplish is to enable a man to make the best use of the abilities he already, consciously or unconsciously, possesses. The first condition of success is willingness to learn. The student must be prepared to do his part. It is not always an easy part, but it is fair to say both that it is always possible and always interesting.

Nor does the Pelman system supplant any system of education. There are systems of education, such as sea-training, Army-training, training to a handicraft, school and university training, which enable the intelligent and zealous student to use his powers to the full. But even to him, the Pelman system would probably serve to bring to his consciousness methods which he is using unconsciously, and thereby strengthening his use of them. In any case, the mental technique imparted by the Pelman system must be valuable to the most instructed.

Quite frankly, the Pelman system is devised to help a man or a woman to achieve practical, material success, sometimes expressible in terms of money. Why not?

If the main principles of the system were to be defined, I should describe them as inculcating self-reliance, and the perfecting of the mind, memory, and mental equipment generally, the essential condition of success in any career.

"Mind and Memory" (in which the Pelman Course is fully described, with a synopsis of the lessons) will be sent, gratis and post free, together with a full reprint of "Truth's" famous Report of the Pelman System, and a form entitling readers of COUNTRY LIFE to the complete Course for one-third less than the usual fees, on application to The Pelman Institute, 8 Pelman House, Bloomsbury Street, London, W.C.1.

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# CORRESPONDENCE

## A RHYME OF THE MONTH.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—I send you the lines asked for in your paper this week. They are by Sara Coleridge :

### THE MONTHS.

January brings the snow,  
Makes our feet and fingers glow.  
February brings the rain,  
Thaws the frozen lake again.  
March brings breezes loud and shrill,  
Stirs the dancing daffodil.  
April brings the primrose sweet,  
Scatters daisies at our feet.  
May brings flocks of pretty lambs,  
Skipping by their fleecy dams.  
June brings tulips, lilies, roses,  
Fills the children's hands with posies.  
Hot July brings cooling showers,  
Strawberries, and gillyflowers.  
August brings the sheaves of corn,  
Then the harvest home is borne.  
Warm September brings the fruit,  
Sportsmen then begin to shoot.  
Fresh October brings the pheasant,  
Then to gather nuts is pleasant.  
Dull November brings the blast,  
Then the leaves are whirling fast.  
Chill December brings the sleet,  
Blazing fire, and Christmas treat.

—EDITH MARY JONES-BALME (aged nine years).

[Copies of these lines have also been kindly sent to us by "M. S. B." ("Hymns and Rhymes for Children by the Daughter of a Clergyman," published by Ward, Lock and Tyler about sixty years ago), M. Butler and May Armstrong ("A Poetry Book for Schools," Belle and Daldy, 1855), and from James J. Cash.—ED.]

## DEER IN AN ORCHARD.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—I wonder if you or any of your readers would be kind enough to tell me whether there is any creeper (non-poisonous, of course) that I could train on a hovel in my orchard to hide it? I have only a red deer in the orchard, and she naturally prefers browsing to grazing, and I cannot think of anything that I could train on the hovel that she would not eat. Would hops do? I have not tried these. Perhaps if this meets the eye of anyone who could help me, they would let me know through your paper; in any case I should be most grateful. One more question. Could you tell me if I got a stag (red) to run with her as a companion, would it be safe for people to walk through the orchard if he had been gelded? I should, of course, have him gelded when he had his antlers, as I understand they do not come again if gelded in the velvet. Failing this I suppose I shall have to get a fallow buck, but I take it he would be quite safe without gelding him. The orchard is only two acres and deer are so apt to get dangerous if petted and people are always walking through it.—GUY FALKNER.

[As a climber to cover the outbuilding we suggest *Vitis Coignetiae*. It is one of the largest leaved vines and makes a glorious display of crimson in the autumn. Moreover, it would quickly grow to the top of the building and clothe it on all sides. It would require a little protection in its early stages. In regard to a companion for the deer, our correspondent's query has been submitted to an expert, who replies as follows: "There is never any certainty with regard to a stag which has been gelded; they often develop into dangerous beasts. If gelded when the horns are fully developed in the velvet the latter would strip, but the stag would retain the head he had when the operation took place. An adult stag confined in a paddock and treated as a pet is never really safe. They lose their fear of man and are all the more dangerous if they turn nasty. A fallow buck would probably be all right, though personally I should not care to trust him."—ED.]

## BREAD PRICES DURING THE NAPOLEONIC WARS.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—I give below some entries from the diary of one of my ancestors, written in London during the Napoleonic wars. They seemed to me of some interest under present conditions:

"Thurs: July 9—1795. this Day the price of Bread was Rased from d.10½ to one Shilling the Quarteren loaf. Thos Skinner, L.Mayor. in the year—1742 Household Bread was sold in London at d.3½ the Quarteren loaf, and porter Was then d.2½ the pot—so that a loaf of wholesome Bread and a pot of porter Cost but d.6.

"Thurs: July 23—1795. Bread was Rased from one Shilling the Quarteren loaf to S.1-0½ (1s. 0½d.).

"Thurs: Sept 3 Bread was lored this Day from S.1-1 a Quarteren loaf to one Shilling the Quarteren loaf.

"Decr 3—it was Rased from S.1-0½ to S.1-0½ and on Decr 10 it was Rased to S.1-1½ and on Feby 25 to S.1-3 the Quarter Loaf."—MARGARET BOURDILLON.

## TO BOTTLE GREEN PEAS.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—I notice in COUNTRY LIFE for August 24th an enquiry by one of your readers asking if it is possible to bottle green peas. I have sterilised a good many with excellent results; in fact, they have been every bit as good as peas freshly gathered and will keep for months. We had one of Fowler, Lee

and Co.'s sterilising apparatuses and followed the directions exactly. They tell you that the peas must be boiled first, so as to kill any microbes they may contain—vegetables contain more than fruit, and for this reason they are more liable to fermentation. After boiling, the peas are placed in the sterilising jars and brought to a certain heat—I have not the book with me, so cannot say exactly what this is—but as the temperature of the water has to be much higher than that required for sterilising fruit, salt is added to the water. The sterilisation must be done twice, allowing the bottles to cool in between. We found both peas and broad beans kept for months done like this. When required for table, both vegetables and the liquid they are in are simply heated in a saucepan.—M. E. S. BEST, W.R.N.S.

## TRAPPING FOR WOMEN.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—Many and diverse are the opinions of farmers of women's work on the land in all its various aspects, but little or nothing has been said of those most necessary and eminently suitable branches of agriculture for women, viz.: (1) Mole catching and (2) rabbit trapping. After eighteen months on the land as milk and stable girl, house woman, ploughgirl, and finally as instructress of shepherding in a large agricultural college, I started independently as a mole trapper, supported enthusiastically by such of the farmers as I knew, who unanimously declared it to be a woman's work and who eagerly offered me employment. Incidentally, I offered to trap rabbits for them, and in this way I met with a very fair amount of success. In view of the urgent and incessant call for food production in this country, both rabbit trapping and mole trapping are equally valuable branches of agriculture. The enormous amount of damage done by rabbits and moles on the land is known only to those whose heritage it is to cultivate the soil, and I would earnestly call upon those women who are as yet unemployed upon work of national importance to offer themselves immediately for this work, as the trapping season is rapidly approaching. It will no doubt interest those who think seriously of taking up this work to learn that a school of instruction in the art of trapping for women is very shortly to be opened, and every means will be used to efficiently equip the students for work after a short training there. Trapping is a work of national importance; it is also a healthy and remunerative work, and again I would earnestly advise our women and girls to work on the land as trappers.—V. C.

## CATTLE AND TREES.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—I have some bullocks in a paddock where I want to plant some cedar and fir trees. Will the cattle browse on them or do them harm?—THOS. S. CARSON.

[Cattle will browse on the twigs of *Cedrus Deodora*, and a number of large trees were injured in this way at Penrhyn Castle in Wales, though no ill effects to the stock were noticed. Fir trees do not suffer from the attacks of farm stock. In both cases it may be well to remember that by rubbing against the stems and branches the trees are greatly injured by cattle and horses.—ED.]

## FLOWERS TO MARK THE HOURS.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—Can you tell me the names of the different flowers which mark the hours of the day by opening and closing in their order? Do you know of any book on the "Dial of Flowers"?—J. C. BOLTON JONES.

[There are no flowers in this country and few, if any, in other lands which can be relied upon to open and close at given hours. This is a matter almost entirely guided by temperature, sunlight and other factors which are generally very variable. Even the evening primrose, to give a familiar example, frequently opens during the daytime. We do not know a book such as our correspondent mentions.—ED.]

## PARTRIDGES AND FARMING.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—Partridges have not done so well with us for the past few years." This was the remark made to me the other day by a Scottish proprietor whom I happened to be visiting. I asked him how he accounted for the alleged set-back. "Well," he answered, "it is rather difficult to account for it; but our belief is that it is due to the newer methods of cultivation that are being adopted by the farmers." The point is a trifle obscure, but there must be something in the theory advanced by my friend. The distribution of the birds is, probably, governed mainly by the nature of the food supply. With higher cultivation there must be a substantial diminution, both of insects and seed-bearing weeds, and insects and seeds form the partridge's staple article of food. Nowadays farmers keep few objects more constantly before them than the extirpation of weeds and herbivorous insects, and they are rapidly succeeding in ridding their fields of these unwelcome intruders. Their policy may be proper and commendable from an agricultural point of view, but it means hunger and distress to the little brown birds. I have read some observations made on the subject by Mr. P. J. Mackie, an acknowledged authority on Scottish sport. He declares that a "new danger" seems to have developed, and that some people blame it for the scarcity of partridges in districts where they were once plentiful. The new danger consists in the higher cultivation of land and the use of artificial manures. In many English districts, Mr. Mackie proceeds, dead birds have been found to have arsenic in their crops, the assumption being that the poison is traceable to chemical fertilisers. Mr. Mackie never writes in a haphazard manner, yet I am somewhat sceptical concerning the deadly properties of the manures usually employed. I would prefer to account for the recession of the partridge by the palpable decrease in its natural food supply.—A. H.

## ELECAMPANE.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—It is evident that Rudyard Kipling was correct in including elecampane among the "Excellent herbs had our fathers of old" in the list contained in the lines quoted by a correspondent in your issue of April 13th. Thanks to the following extract from a letter which I have just come across in Lady Newton's fascinating book "The House of Lyme," we can establish its place in the materia medica of the countryside so far back as 1635, the letter being dated April 1st of that year. "To satisfy myself the better I have sent this bearer to see you; and chiefly to bring you some Ellecompain which is to be taken now at this time of the year. Summer is not so good by experience I have sene of meny who have used it; I think it is the best phisicke for fleame in the stomacke obstructions and to cause an appetite and good digestion that can be, meny things more it is good for, ill in none that I know, and so far as I can conceive it cannot be better then for you, I wish it may doe you but as much good as I desier it may; take a spoonful everyday first in the morning, fast an hower after it; I made shift to doe the best roots I could get here."—A. E. R.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—As there was recently so much correspondence in your paper concerning "elecampane," I thought your readers might be interested by a photograph of the plant. It grows wild in several spots in this neighbourhood, being a handsome thing some 6ft. in height when at its best. I know one place where it grows amid a tangled profusion of bracken and blackberries, its bright yellow flowers glowing amid the greenery. Not the least ornamental part of the plant is the prettily veined white woolly underside of its leaves.

—FRANCES PITT.



AN EXCELLENT HERB.

some reach the half-open stage, then drop. The plant is in vigorous health, grows luxuriantly, and has dark green glossy foliage. There are no insects on it. Hundreds of buds are set annually, yet nearly all drop at the stage mentioned.—A. D. H.

[This is a common failing with camellias and may be considered a constitutional weakness with certain varieties. The tendency is increased both by too little and too much water at the roots. Over-potting is a frequent cause of flower-buds dropping, especially when the centre ball of soil has been allowed to become dry. If transplanted or potted when dry the centre ball of soil will always remain dry, no matter how much the surrounding soil in the pot, tub or border is watered. Another point to bear in mind is that the camellia is as hardy as or even harder than the laurel, and only requires sufficient heat to keep out frost when in flower. Syringe freely on bright days till the buds show colour. The camellia is one of the worst of plants if not constantly attended to, and it is only by close attention to cultural details that the failing may be overcome.—Ed.]

## THE LEAFING OF OAK AND ASH.

[TO THE EDITOR.]

SIR,—Has any reader of COUNTRY LIFE ever seen the ash in leaf earlier than the oak?—H. T. WISE.

## AN ANCIENT RUNIC CROSS AT COLLINGHAM, NEAR LEEDS: THE OLDEST AUTHENTICATED CHRISTIAN MONUMENT IN THE NORTH OF ENGLAND.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—The church at Collingham, near Leeds, is dedicated to Oswald, King of Northumbria, 635–641. In the west end is a seventh century Runic Cross, which is unique in Yorkshire, if not in England, both as an historical and religious monument.

In the history written by the Venerable Bede in his cell at Jarrow twelve centuries ago we are told that Oswini, King in Deira, the land between the Humber and the Tyne, was betrayed to Oswy (brother to Oswald, King of Northumbria), King from the Tyne to the Firth of Forth, and, along with a trusty soldier who stayed with him, was murdered by Oswy's orders in 651 at Collingham. This Anglo-Saxon pillar is considered to be the oldest authenticated Christian monument existing in the North of England. It is supposed to be the original dedication stone set up in the Saxon monastery founded by Eanfled, cousin and wife of Oswy at Collingham, where, according to Bede, prayers were

daily offered up for the repose of the soul of Oswini, as also for that of his murderer. The Runic inscription was deciphered and translated by the late Dr. Haigh and tallies exactly with the account as recorded by Bede.—HAROLD G. GRAINGER.



## MAPLE LEAVES DISFIGURED.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—I am sending a few leaves which are affected by some kind of pest, and will be much obliged if you can tell me what steps should be taken to eradicate same.—ALISSON C. LEY.

[Two pests are attacking the maple leaves sent. The small pinkish warts with hairs upon them are the result of an attack of a mite. The large conspicuous spots are due to the attack of the fungus Rhytisma acerinum. In neither case can anything be done usefully at present, but possibly spraying with a nicotine wash just as the leaves unfold would check the former trouble next year (no experiments have been carried out for its prevention), while the collection and burning of the falling leaves will prevent the fungus attack, so long as other diseased maples are not permitted to be near the trees, for it is from these leaves that each fresh attack starts.—Ed.]

## OLD ENGLISH GAME FOWLS.

[TO THE EDITOR.]


SIR,—In connection with my Old English Game Fowls, you will be interested to know that I am sending a consignment of twenty cocks to a number of British officers interned in Holland who find time hangs heavy on their hands. I have suggested that when they have done with them they leave them in the hands of their Dutch hosts to found a race of our best British breed of stock in Holland.—JOHN WATSON.



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## BIRDS AND INSECTS.

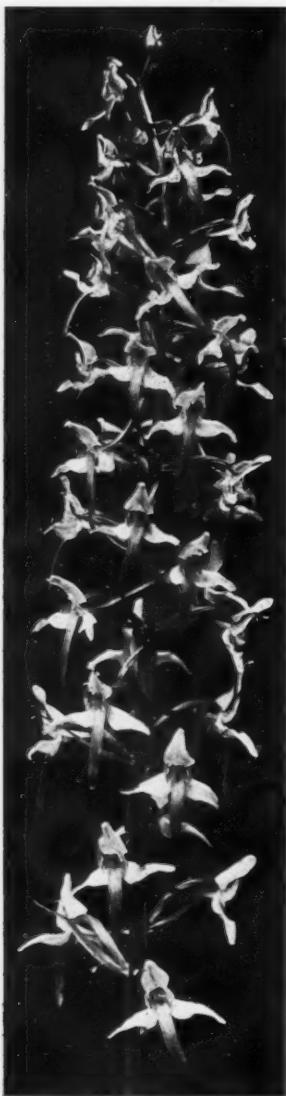
[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—It is not to be wondered at that children play havoc among the wild birds' eggs if what was done in Somersetshire this year is also enacted in other counties. I am informed by a lady who was staying in that county that rewards were actually offered to school children not only to destroy eggs, but even the parent birds, and they did so! Not especially sparrows, but thrushes, robins and such-like invaluable friends of agriculture. This lady's hostess was so indignant that she gave notice that any school children who destroyed birds and nests in her village should have no part or share in any entertainment on their behalf. Setting aside sparrows, it passes my comprehension that adult authorities in a county can be so utterly heartless to the birds and so foolishly blind to the effect of such disgraceful destruction upon the characters of the children who are encouraged to carry it out.—HUBERT D. ASTLEY.

## ONE OF THE RARER WILD FLOWERS.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—The enclosed photograph of a particularly fine specimen of the large butterfly Orchis (*Habenaria chlorantha*) may be of interest. It is usually considered one of the rarer of this family among our wild flora, and when found it is prized on account of its rarity and also its beautiful scent and pale greenish white colouring. The present year seems to be a particularly good one for these, and I had the pleasure of seeing over twenty growing wild in a wood near here. This particular specimen was just 2 ft. high from the ground to the top flower, and the flower spike was exactly 11 ins. in length. It would be interesting to know if other specimens have reached this size. Although one is used to seeing monstrosities in some of the more common plants, such as petals turned into leaves, etc., one hardly expects to come across monstrous forms of a rare plant like this. But close at hand in the same wood I saw one spike on which the sixth flower from the bottom had developed two distinct lips and two spurs, while higher up on the same spike there was another flower which had developed two columns, but only the usual one lip and spur.—H. ESSENHIGH-CORKE.



THE LARGE BUTTERFLY ORCHIS.

to remove whole handfuls of their shrivelled bodies. So abundant were the moths as to be a nuisance, an inconvenience disposed of only by the approach of colder weather. These creatures of the night must have come from far and near, there were such hosts of them. What a harvest for an entomologist!—C. G.

## THE GARDEN TOAD.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—It too often happens that the gardener when he meets with a toad in the course of his day's work will exclaim, "Thou great toad," and bring down the edge or flat of his spade, putting out of life the only animal which carries a jewel in its head, the said jewel being its really beautiful eye, which looks as it twinkles "as honest as the day!" And such it is, and no better friend has the gardener or allotment holder than the "ugly toad," which many men and nearly all boys proceed to stone when they meet it soberly hopping along on its excellent business. It is the friend of man in the widest sense, and it is open to receive nearly all the known garden pests which do so much damage to growing and ripe crops. The toad is ready

and, like Barkis, "willin'" to take them into its capacious maw from the slug to the offspring of daddy-long-legs, and I have seen his wonderful tongue dart out and secure both "daddy," its leather-jacket and the snail with equal facility. In fact, a plea for the "nasty toad" ought to be in the mouth of all Nature lovers, for a more useful animal does not exist. The notion that it "spits venom" is not by any means dead yet, and this idea of venom is due to the constant working of the creature's jaws. I kept a large toad, or rather it lived on my premises, for five or six years, and its den was at the back of a large ivy stem on my house side. It would come out when called "Jock! Jock!" or when the ivy stem was rattled with a stick, and the way it would take a snail off the end of a stick was worth seeing, for out shot the tongue and the snail was gone "like magic." Preserve all toads and make pets of them and the toad will repay, but watch your bees and keep the toad from them.—THOMAS RATCLIFFE.

## PHOTOGRAPHY IN MADRAS.

THE EDITOR.

SIR,—I am sending you two photographs, taken at some risk of being mobbed during a native festival in Madras. A crowd of Madras on-lookers made very threatening demonstrations against the photographer, but he succeeded in escaping in a motor car which happened to be available at the moment. One of the pictures shows one of the idols, in honour of which the procession was being carried through the streets.—H. S. P.

## SONG BIRDS IN CAGES.

[THE EDITOR.]

SIR,—Your correspondent Rosslyn Manning attacks my letter, which, after mentioning caged skylarks at Brighton, I ended with "Cannot it be made illegal to keep birds in captivity?" I agree with your correspondent that

"captivity does not necessarily mean cruelty towards our little feathered friends"; but, as I said in my letter, it shows selfishness and unnatural feeling towards a helpless creature. I admit that many years ago, when a schoolboy, I had a caged goldfinch. It seemed happy and also pleased me with its song. After a year or two a cat killed it. Since then, with a broadening mind, I have studied birds in their natural haunts, admired their beauty, watched their ways, and listened to their songs. And I have thought, "Why cage them? It seems very greedy and quite unnecessary to surround a bird with wires in order to be fond of it." I am well aware that birds "are not endowed with reasoning faculties equal to our own"; I know that their actions and feelings are the result of inherited instinct, and that they cannot think about any pain or pleasure they may meet with. A mixed company at the bird-table and in the water pan, titmice on the suspended food, a robin by the spade—liberty everywhere, these are my ideals!—A. CAMERON SHORE.



AT A NATIVE FESTIVAL IN MADRAS.



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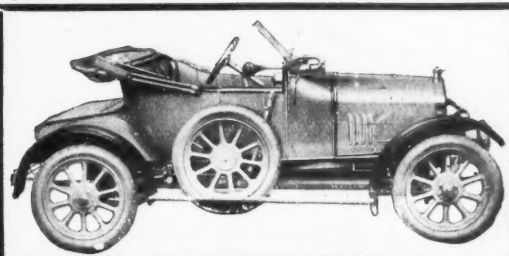
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## HEDGEHOG ON THE MENU.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—In answer to your correspondent who asks how to cook hedgehogs, I have eaten many. The best way to do them is to take the prickles off with a razor, then cut them open and roast them like you would "spatch-cock." They are excellent eating and will just be getting fit to eat now.—H. G.

## ANIMALS OF THE ESSEX MARSHES.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—The marsh lands which border the Lower Thames appear dreary and monotonous to one who has lived in the West Country, land of ever-changing beauty and semi-tropical vegetation. In the Essex flats deep, stagnant ditches take the place of hedges, dividing field from field; they are formidable obstacles, only to be crossed by the plank bridges, which are very few and far apart. Hares are fairly numerous, and seem to do well. The grass is, as a rule, rough and coarse, but every here and there one finds patches of finer quality, while there is a peculiar kind of short grass which grows on the saltings outside the sea-wall. High tides cover this turf, and, indeed, salt water seems to be essential, for when saltings turf is transferred inland it appears to gradually die out, and the fine light green grass is bit by bit replaced by ordinary inland grasses. Hares regularly visit the saltings for the sake of this grass. One day I saw one which had been overtaken by a high tide swim ten yards across a creek in order to get back. I have heard people say they have shot hares weighing eleven or twelve pounds, but I think such monsters must be extremely rare. These marshland hares look as big as any others, yet I find few scaling over eight pounds, and one which weighed exactly ten pounds looked a giant among its fellows. Stoats are common on the Essex flats. Just before dusk they may be often seen hunting along the banks of the ditches. If a wild duck is wounded and lost, stoats invariably find it out and dispose of it. I have twice surprised stoats engaged in eating duck which I had shot and lost the day before. They seem usually to start operations on the neck. Once or twice I suspected water-rats of having partially eaten lost birds, but an accumulation of evidence has quite convinced me that stoats are invariably the sinners. For instance, I lost a duck late in the evening, and next day found it badly mauled. I thought that this time it must be a rat, as I had never seen a stoat anywhere near that particular spot. Two days afterwards I saw a stoat at the very place, obviously looking for another windfall. Water-rats hibernate in the winter months, but a warm day will bring them out. As an instance of this I twice saw voles during January this year. The time was about half-past two in the afternoon, and the animals were swimming briskly about. I have never seen a water-rat either killing anything or eating animal food. We know that a great many ducklings and the young of other water-loving birds are killed and eaten. Possibly the voles may have a hand in the business, but seeing as I have how stoats hunt the ditches in the evenings, I am inclined to believe that they are the creatures which do most of the killing. One stoat I shot had the back of its neck decorated with two ticks swollen as big as peas—the prey preyed on. I have once seen a water-shrew, and was much struck by the little creature's activity in the water. There also seems to be a water-vole of smaller size than the common water-rat. It is a very active animal, and seems to do most of its foraging under water. At first I thought it might be a young specimen of the ordinary vole, but eventually came to the conclusion that it was another animal altogether, as its movements were so different and so much more rapid. I tried hard to get a specimen, but failed. Field-mice are common. Those I have seen were of the slender long-tailed variety, but I have not paid much attention to them, and no doubt the short-tailed ones exist as well.—FLEUR-DE-LYS.

## TURF, STUD &amp; STABLE

IT is not to be wondered at that some jockeys, who take a human rather than a mechanical interest in horses, should be attracted by the breeding of racehorses. "Morny" Cannon's deep interest in the horses he rode was not to be questioned, but when once he had finished his riding career he practically ceased his active connection with any of the phases of the Turf. The fact was rather surprising. W. Higgs, who rode Slieve Gallion, when that horse won the Two Thousand Guineas, and Willonyx in his successful career, at once assumed the rôle of breeder on his retirement from the saddle, and he has certainly done well. He went off on the right lines by acquiring high-class mares and mating them with high-priced sires. Consequently he practically assured himself of substantial prices for the yearlings when they came to be sold. W. Griggs is the owner of some mares and is a vendor at the yearling sales at Newmarket; but more interesting still is the case of the leading jockey of to-day, Stephen Donoghue. He had a mare named Minnesota, which he had mated with Aquascutum in Ireland. That horse could not be called a fashionable sire, as, indeed, the low service fee indicated, though he has sired a fair number of winners. To Aquascutum, Minnesota bred By Jingo, who won the Manchester Cup in the style of a really good horse. In the hopes of getting something even better he put the mare to Oppressor, by Gallinule, and the yearling, I notice, is coming up for sale on the morning of Monday next at Newmarket. I am told this is a very fine dark bay colt of exceptional promise, and I do not hesitate to say that, being from the dam of By Jingo, he will make a four-figure price. Mr. De Pledge, the owner of By Jingo, will naturally want to buy him, but he is sure to find some competition to acquire the colt. He is to be seen at the

Meddler Stud at Newmarket. Minnesota, by the way, has this year been mated with Pommern, and for next season Donoghue has been lucky enough to secure a subscription to Gay Crusader, whose fee has been fixed at 400 guineas. Donoghue rode both these horses when they won the New Derbys of 1915 and 1917 respectively.

The fixing of Gay Crusader's fee at 400 guineas has had the effect of startling some people, but it is significant that his subscription for the 1919 season is already full. A famous winner's services when he comes to take up duties at the stud are worth just so much as they command in the open market, neither more nor less, and, if Gay Crusader is sought after by breeders in spite of the high fee, Mr. Cox, his owner, would be rather unconventional were he to place a lower estimate on his champion's value. In my opinion Gay Crusader was a Derby winner above the average and on all the considerations that count—performances, breeding and looks—and the high fee is thoroughly justified. Furthermore, everything points to his being a great success, and no breeder of note can afford to ignore his existence. Certainly no enterprising breeder, whether he breeds for the open market or for his own racing stable, will be deterred by the figure demanded. What is an odd hundred guineas when the value of the progeny is taken into consideration? He might conceivably be a failure at the stud, but until the fact be demonstrated his stock must undoubtedly command a high value. Gay Crusader has a two year old full brother named Manilardo. He has not yet appeared in public, and when his able trainer chooses to produce him there will, of course, be much curiosity to watch his performance. He is a colt that wants time to bring him to his best. Alec Taylor is likely to give him all that consideration and more, for there never was a more patient man. I am told the two year old is so good looking that he must be a high-class performer one day, providing, of course, he keeps sound and goes on as well as he is doing at the present time. Then Mr. Cox also owns a half-sister to My Dear, the Oaks winner, in Ciceronetta. She, too, holds out very special promise, and will make an interesting *début* in due course.

What I wrote recently on the subject of the luxury tax and thoroughbred horse breeding was obviously written prior to the official announcement of the Committee's actual recommendations on the subject. Like many other people, I was living under the fear of harsh treatment of an industry which more than any other has suffered as the result of the war. I was afraid that certain existing prejudice, and antagonism, to racing would be allowed to influence a committee of non-experts. That prejudice is held by people who detest racing and can see in it only evil and no good of any kind. They are ready at all times to flare up into active opposition and advocacy of ruthless suppression. Their attitude is usually the same whether directed to racing, the consumption of beer, wines or spirits by the community, recreation of any kind on Sundays, or, indeed, any form of relaxation which does not at once commend itself to their "unco" guid" minds. The pacifists and conscientious objectors are merely branches of the same family. Their "Hidden Hand" might well have been at work on such a tempting proposition as luxury taxation.

Fortunately for breeders, the Committee did listen to the evidence of such authorities as Colonel W. Hall Walker, M.P., Mr. H. Cholmondeley and Mr. Somerville Tattersall, and they heeded the warnings that were given. Briefly, they were told that the industry could not stand sweeping and indiscriminate taxation, and accordingly we find them recommending that foals and yearlings (whether thoroughbred, hunter, hackney or polo pony) shall be excluded. The tax, if the price paid exceeds £150, is to "fall upon any thoroughbred horse, hunter, hackney, polo pony . . . except in the case of sales for breeding purposes only, or except where it is certified by the competent Government Department and the purchase is necessary for maintaining the breeding stock of the country." We may take it, therefore, that people may buy foals and yearlings without fear of having to pay more than the market price reached at the sale, either in public or in private. Every mare should automatically be exempt, though I expect the buyer, if he wishes to escape the tax, will have to guarantee that he will breed from her. That would be an excellent proviso to exact in the interests of breeding. Then no one can say that an entire racehorse which changes hands for a large sum is not sold for breeding, though the immediate object of the purchase is to train and race him. Naturally, a horse which wins races is very valuable for breeding purposes. Much will depend on what attitude the "competent Government Department" will take up. What Department will it be? Not the War Office, because breeding is no concern of theirs. It must, then, be the Board of Agriculture, who, I venture to say, will be asking for more trouble than already besets their much harried administration if they do not take steps to broaden and strengthen their outlook and knowledge of these matters by co-opting on a small committee, which would really be the competent authority, a representative of the Jockey Club and one or two respected individuals in the world of racing and horse breeding generally. But, of course, that day is not yet, and luxury taxation may remain but a dream and not a substantial reality. On the other hand, it may come true, in which case the Board of Agriculture would not be lacking in prescience and foresight in preparing such a scheme as would create confidence and a conviction that the authority really would be "competent" in every sense. PHILLIPPOS.